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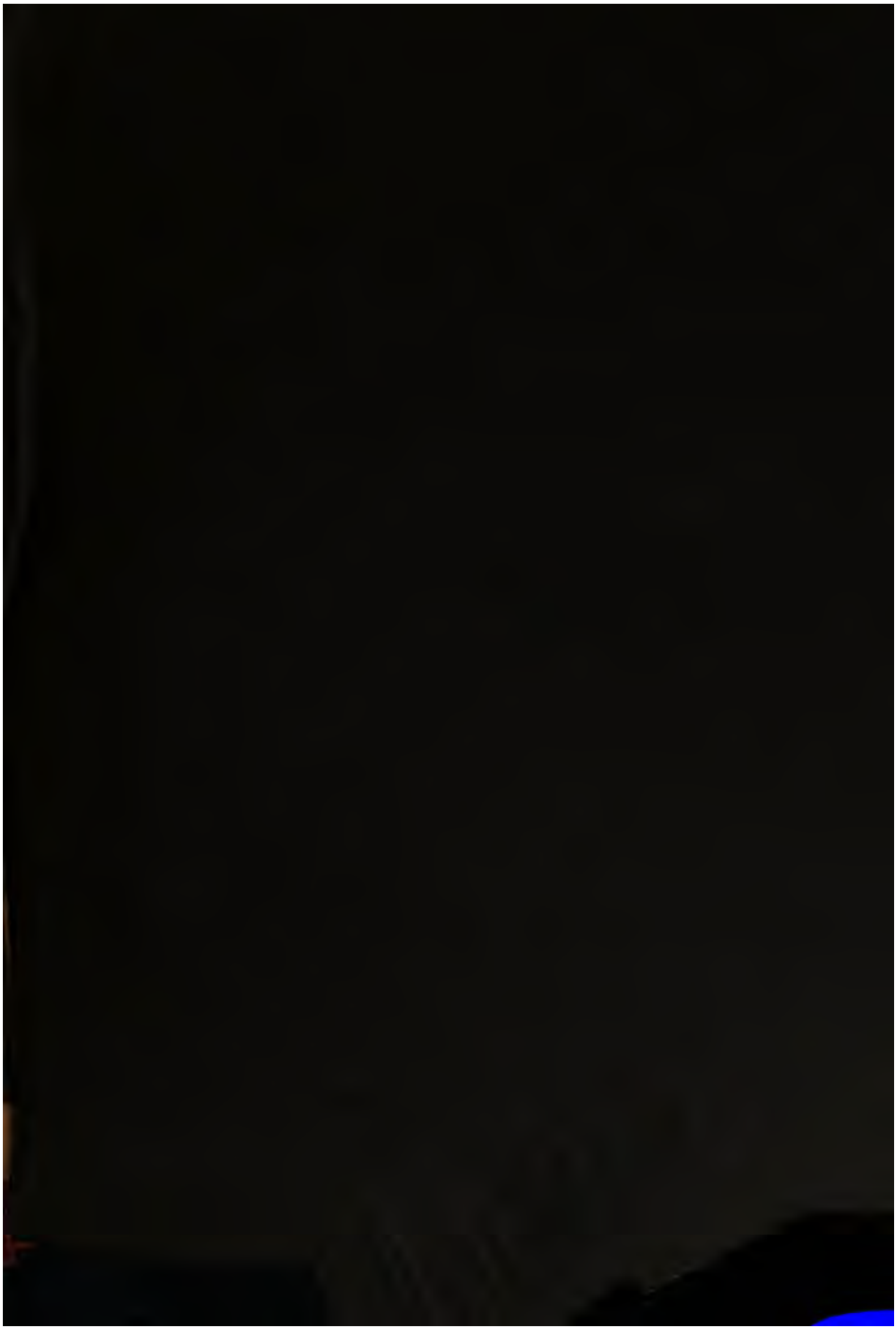

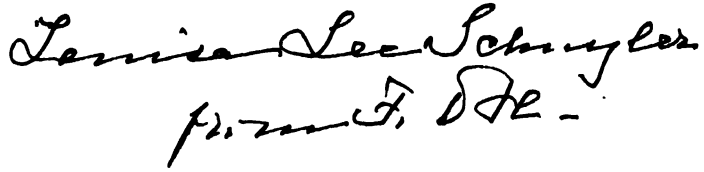

MEMOIR

OF

ROSAMOND DAVENPORT-HILL

ROSAMOND DAVENPORT-HILL, M.L.S.B.

From a Photograph by Elliot & Fry.
Taken in 1894.

MEMOIR

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LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.
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ROSAMOND DAVENPORT-HILL, M.L.S.B.

From a Photograph by Elliot & Fry.
Taken in 1894.

MEMOIR

OF

ROSAMOND DAVENPORT-HILL

BY

ETHEL E. METCALFE

WITH PORTRAITS

The late Lord Shaftesbury is said to have exclaimed with enthusiasm: "What would England be without her adorable spinsters"

LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.
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CHAPTER I.

GIRLHOOD IN HAMPSTEAD.

ROSAMOND DAVENPORT-HILL was the eldest daughter of the well-known Recorder of Birmingham, Matthew Davenport-Hill, K.C. Her mother, whose maiden name was Bucknall, was a woman of intellect and great energy of character; owing, however, to her increasing deafness she shrank from society, except that of intimate friends, so that her children saw little of social life or gaiety. On the other hand, they became familiar with European travel at a comparatively early age, as their father could only obtain the necessary rest from professional work by going abroad. His three daughters following somewhat in his footsteps worked with great devotion throughout the latter half of the nineteenth century to improve the condition of the poorer classes of England. While

the attention of the two younger sisters was mainly directed to the treatment and care of those who came under the control of the Poor Law Guardians, Rosamond devoted her life, first, in conjunction with her father, to the reform of prison discipline, and subsequently to the improvement and extension of primary education.

She was born at Chelsea, on the 4th of August, 1825. The following year, however, her parents removed to a house in Chancery Lane where her father already had Chambers. Five years later, in 1831, they again removed, this time to the Vale of Health on Hampstead Heath, and here they lived among happy and beautiful surroundings for eleven years. The house they occupied has long since disappeared, having been replaced by a large tavern and a number of small dwellings. Rose remembered to the end of her days the great joy of that garden, with its pretty shrubberies overhanging the big pond, and how merrily she ran round it with her brothers on the first evening of their arrival, plucking branches of the azaleas and rhododendrons that were blooming in profu-

sion. The health of the children improved very much in Hampstead, and they lived to completely outgrow their early delicacy of constitution.

Joanna Baillie and her sister Agnes were then living in the neighbourhood and soon became acquainted with the Hills, whose youngest daughter was christened Joanna in memory of that distinguished authoress. The elder children frequently went to their house to leave books or messages, and were interested and charmed by the old ladies, as so many had been before them. Rose would sometimes look in upon them on her way to school, to be regaled at their breakfast-table with a taste of jelly or marmalade of their own making—an unusual treat for children in those days.

The school that Rose began to attend when she was eight years old seems to have been in some respects in advance of the times, for among other subjects botany was taught in a manner to permanently interest the pupils, developing in her a love of plants and flowers which she carried with her throughout her life, and which greatly solaced her few declining years.

After this she was sent for a short time to a boarding school at Upper Clapton, and then from the age of fourteen to twenty-one she studied at home under an excellent visiting governess, Miss Marianne Fry, continuing afterwards with a tutor for a few special subjects. At the same time, her mother having become partly an invalid, much of the housekeeping fell to her care, so that she gained a practical knowledge of cookery and laundry work, which was of great service to her when in later years she directed her attention to organising these departments of the London School Board.

As a child Rose must have been distinctly original. When only four years old she wrote a letter to her father who was away on circuit, to which he thus refers in a letter to his wife: "Rose's letter is a treasure, it brought tears to my eyes. I quite enter into her feelings about being commanded and I rather rejoice in them than otherwise. A command ought to be a punishment, and never resorted to but when a request or recommendation fails. We have always acted on the feeling, though perhaps we have not hitherto reduced it to words, and the

From a Miniature. Artist unknown.

child felt that the *order* had been given wantonly. None of my offspring will have the submissiveness of Quakers I hope, and I am not afraid of resistance founded on good principle. The child's attachment to me is quite affecting."

When school days began, she could remember to have been called "odd" because she used to deliver unappreciated lectures to the small boys who came to fetch their sisters home. In after years a friend who knew her well said: "The two qualities that early made a very strong impression on my mind as exemplified in the character of my cousin Rose were her great generosity and her keen sense of justice. A few years in childhood make a wonderful difference, and I always looked upon her as one of those delightful grown-up girls who never used their age as an excuse for tyranny of any kind towards those younger than themselves. Another charm she had which lasted through her whole life. Her naturally quick temper made her sometimes take a hasty, and therefore unjust view of others. The moment she became aware that she had done anything unjust her

eagerness to make reparation far exceeded her eagerness to find fault."

Another dear friend and schoolfellow, Emily Clark, who has lived to take an important part in moulding the laws and institutions affecting the children of a young Australian State, gives us the following graphic description of her cousin while at school, where that "resistance founded on good principle" that her father had observed and approved of when she was only four years old had developed into a noble if inconvenient quality.

"Rose's life at school was not a happy one, although it was neither her fault nor the fault of the school that this was so.

"She must have been a most intelligent pupil, and she never neglected her school duties. Her work was always well done, and she was singularly tender and kind to those younger and less clever than herself. Whenever I came to a difficulty in my lessons I used to fly to her for help and never in vain. And she was the life and soul of all the games and amusements, especially if anything dramatic were got up. She put such spirit and energy into

her part that she carried everything before her.

"One reason why she was not happy arose from her passionate love of justice and eager championship of any one she considered to be unfairly treated, whether it was herself or any of her companions. She had the courage of her opinions, and never hesitated to express them. Occasionally her indignation would be poured forth in a torrent and could not be put down. And there was one fertile cause of offence which in these days would appear utterly absurd, although to her it had serious consequences.

"It was the custom at that time for the children of the middle classes to call their parents *Papa* and *Mamma* while those of the lower classes kept to the older and more tender title of Father and Mother. Rose had been accustomed to say Father and Mother while all her schoolfellows said Papa and Mamma.

"The good ladies who kept the school thought she should do the same, and unable to induce her to do so, required her to say *my* father and *my* mother when speaking of her parents, urging as a reason that she was not the only person

in the world who had a father and mother. Against this rule Rose rebelled in her heart, although giving way to a certain extent. She was fond of quoting her father and mother and often forgot the important 'my,' especially when roused to a state of indignation, and to be told she would lose her mark only made her the more angry. . . .

"I well remember her first visit to us when we lived in Calthorpe Street and afterwards her enthusiasm over our removal to Hazelwood. Rose worked like a horse on those busy days. She was stronger than I was and proud of her strength, and we walked backwards and forwards between the two houses carrying things and feeling ourselves very important. Even then, in her eager sympathy and the way in which she made the business her own, she showed the qualities which made her such a power for good in her after life, a power most admirably used and directed by straightforward common sense which so many would-be philanthropists are apt to throw aside."

The girlhood of the sisters at Hampstead passed on the whole quietly enough. The

even tenure of their schoolroom days was seldom broken by any dash of excitement. But one day, soon after the young Queen Victoria had come to the throne, when they were sitting quietly at their lessons as usual, they were startled by loud cries for help from the direction of the pond. They all ran to see what was the matter, and found that a little boy had fallen into the deep water while a crowd of children stood screaming on the brink. The girls rushed to fetch their coachman. At that moment an elegant horseman rode up quickly to the rescue, and with the help of a passer-by the three men were able to form a chain, the coachman going first, till they reached the child and brought him safely to shore; but not before the water had risen to the ears of the first man, the knees of the second, and had soiled with mud the white trousers of the fine gentleman. He proved to be no less a personage than the Equerry to the Queen, who had been riding along the Spaniards Road when she heard the cries of distress and at once despatched him to offer his assistance.

Rose and Florence were also in the habit of

riding about the Heath, but they did so unattended and in an original manner. Both of them being small for their age and the pony broad of back, they would mount together on the same saddle, Florry in front with the reins and pommel, Rose behind using stirrup and whip. In this manner they cantered about the Heath together, or strolled along the country lanes, while Rose, from her perch behind, would sometimes read aloud to her sister some recently published tale of Sir Walter Scott's. Pleasant memories for both the sisters gathered round these morning rides, but what they thought the most noteworthy event of their girlhood was a visit to Maria Edgeworth. Their father, who had been acquainted with this lady for some years, has aptly described her as having "a substratum of good sense and a pleasant *soupçon* of Irish vivacity". On hearing that she was in London he wrote to ask if his little daughters might pay her a visit, a suggestion to which she cordially responded.

Familiar as they were with Miss Edgeworth's books for the young, it was with awe and delight that they approached her in person, and on their

return from the interview, during which they had discussed many subjects, including the Thames tunnel, and the Temperance movement then going on in Ireland, Rose at once wrote the following account of it:—

"*March 1st*, 1840.—Went to see Miss Maria Edgeworth which delighted me almost more than I can express. She is one of the most pleasing women I ever saw, but I don't think she looks at all like an authoress, for she is very short, but not fat or out of proportion at all, and has been very pretty indeed in her youth I should think. I think she is very affable, not at all thinking herself superior to other people. She entered into conversation with us directly, and delightful it was to hear her. She spoke in high terms of Father Mathew, saying he is a thoroughly honest-minded man and is doing a great deal of good in Ireland. He does not like to be considered to have supreme power but only that influence which virtue gives. He also is not bigoted, for he administers the pledge to Protestants as well as Catholics, which the latter do not much like. Miss Edgeworth says she thinks it much better Father Mathew

should not come to England, for he would be made a lion of here by the nobility, and, as he is a man of very plain unpolished manners, would soon disgust them and he would be thrown off by them, which would destroy all his influence here with the poor, and then the poor in Ireland would not respect him as they do now. We saw his pledge, which is a medal, on one side of which is a promise saying these words, 'I will abstain from all intoxicating liquors unless taken Medicinally and by a Medical Man's advice,' and on the other side a Latin motto, 'In hoc signo vinces'. There was another medal, on one side of which was a portrait of Father Mathew, and on the other a verse from the Acts. Father Mathew has a very pleasant countenance and he looks very young. I could have listened to Miss Edgeworth for an hour, her way of expressing herself was so delightful. . . .

"Miss Edgeworth asked us whether we would have some perfume on our handkerchiefs as a remembrance of her, which of course we gladly received, and I mean never to have the pocket handkerchief washed. When she had showed

us Father Mathew's medals she told us to kiss her, which I think a great honour. Miss Edgeworth understood we had wished very much to see her, and that, I suppose, was the reason why she was so very kind to us. I have a great reverence for Miss Edgeworth, but who has not who has read *Parents' Assistant?* I have written this that I may always be able to recur to it when I am old. I hope I shall never forget March 1st, 1840."

The following year the family went to France *viâ* Havre, travelling in their own carriage as was the fashion in those days. They visited the ruins of the Abbey of Jumièges that Agnes Baillie had described to them as she knew it before the Revolution; then they continued their journey to Paris, and finally went south as far as Châtillon-sur-Loing, where they were the guests of M. and Mde Chevalier. Formerly an officer in the French navy, Chevalier had been taken prisoner at the siege of Flushing, in 1809. He was in command of a small boat that was taking messages at night with muffled oars when he was seen by the English and stopped, but not before he had contrived to sink

the papers in his charge. While released on parole in England he made the acquaintance of M. D. Hill, first in his professional capacity and subsequently as a friend.

In 1844 Rose went abroad again to visit friends in Brussels, making the favourite excursion to the field of Waterloo. Switzerland was visited on another occasion and enjoyed most thoroughly.

Meanwhile the home life had been one of unusual interest. They had moved in 1842 from the Vale of Health to Chalcots on Haverstock Hill, and here many distinguished men were in the habit of visiting them, often partaking of the family dinner on Sunday when the young people were naturally present and were always encouraged to join in the conversation. Among those most vividly remembered were Charles Knight, the publisher; W. R. Grove, the author of the *Correlation of Physical Forces*; Sir Theodore Martin, Leigh Hunt, and particularly that able but eccentric man, David Urquhart, M.P., who had lived some time in the wilder parts of the Turkish dominions and also in Africa, and could tell tales of absorbing interest

to his young audience, occasionally discomfited it is true by a practical question from Rose.

Another well-remembered visitor to the house was William Makepeace Thackeray. Shortly after the anonymous publication of *Jane Eyre*, when he was taking lunch with the Hills, a discussion arose as to whether that celebrated novel were written by a man or a woman. Rose thought the latter, for she was ever a champion of womankind, but Thackeray would none of it.

"Why," exclaimed he, "they say my governess wrote it, but she is the dullest woman ever walked in shoe leather! No—with all due deference to the sex, it shows a grasp of reasoning power beyond a woman." So they were amused, and not a little triumphant, when subsequent events proved Rose to have been right after all.

On the eve of the great Chartist demonstration of 10th April, 1848, Thackeray, Charles Knight, and other friends were again with the Hills, and Rose remembered how the discussion had turned on the fortification of Primrose Hill, a measure which happily was neither needed nor

attempted. The consternation, however, was general. Mr. Hill and his eldest son, Alfred, were sworn in as special constables for the defence of Lincoln's Inn, and Thackeray went home early in the evening, fearing to leave his daughters longer unguarded. It was then observed that the ladies of the Hill family would be without male protection on the eventful morrow, so Mr. Earle, a young Oxford graduate, volunteered his services, and a very pleasant day they spent together, alarmed, it is true, by the sight of a shabby-looking man who wandered up and down the lane, but who turned out to be nothing more dangerous than a road-mender, recently converted into a special constable.

All through the formative years of early womanhood Rose had in reality been her father's companion. She had shared his thoughts, joined in the conversation of his friends and profited by their society. The affection that had so touched his heart when she was a little child had grown and intensified with the development of her character, and it became her habit and her pleasure to read to

him and to do much of his writing for him. In this manner she acquired a business training that was invaluable to her later in life, and to which she attributed much of her success; while even the difficult subject of personal attire seems to have been wisely directed by him, for he enjoined his daughter always to dress with neatness, care, and due accordance to prevailing fashion, saying: "You will be judged by your appearance, most people never look below the surface".

Of the truth of this maxim Rose became thoroughly convinced, giving it a wider application than it could have been intended to bear, for, when talking over plans for the future with her governess one day, she said with quiet determination: "I shall never marry. No one would care for such an ugly girl as I am, except for her money."

So before she was quite twenty she resolutely put aside all expectation of inspiring a love that was worthy of her, and mapped out plans and aspirations for life in which marriage took no part. Whatever she imagined to have been her outward shortcomings in youth, by the time

middle age was reached the beauty and strength of her character shone out clearly upon the surface, where all could see and appreciate it. Then indeed did she reap a rich harvest of affection and reverence. In every relation of life, however remote, to know her at all was to grow fond of her, while in her own family she was dearly loved by every one. Here she displayed to the full her gift for gaining the hearts of children and young people, becoming such an aunt as few can boast, and a rare friend to all who were dear to her.

CHAPTER II.

BRISTOL. ST. JAMES'S BACK RAGGED SCHOOL. PAPERS AND PAMPHLETS. FRÉDÉRIC-AUGUSTE DEMETZ.

ROSAMOND HILL had already been earnestly wishing to be of practical use to the world beyond her home. Many a benevolent scheme had been discussed, but no definite work had actually been undertaken, until in 1851 her father was appointed to a Commissionership in Bankruptcy, and the whole family removed to the neighbourhood of Bristol. Here she came in contact with the active philanthropist Mary Carpenter, who at once enlisted her sympathetic assistance. Writing of this friend long afterwards, she says: "It is a truth, perhaps not sufficiently recognised, that a man or woman, by the long and persistent pursuit of one object, will often unconsciously help on another different in character, but it may be not smaller in value.

"Mary Carpenter was an illustration of this truth. The larger part of her great work—the provision of a rational treatment for the children of the 'perishing and dangerous classes'—was accomplished before the propriety of affording to women a share in the management of public affairs had even come to be freely discussed. By the force of her genius, aided by her self-sacrificing devotion, she cut for herself a path up which she toiled, until in attaining her end she had raised herself to a height whence her opinion and advice, on her own peculiar subject, were sought by some of the most enlightened of her countrymen. At the same time she conferred a boon on her own sex, by demonstrating that a woman may be as capable of bearing a part in the direction of her country's affairs as her male fellow-citizens. Lacking both high position and wealth, a member of a sect which, if not condemned, is often held at arm's length, she yet surmounted all the manifold obstacles which beset her path, and lived to wrest from the governing powers those reforms to the promotion of which she had devoted her life" (*Sunday Magazine*, July, 1880).

In appearance Miss Carpenter was homely to the verge of being odd, but her goodness and grave simplicity went straight to the hearts of the wretched and degraded classes whom she was striving to serve. While visiting a prison the jailer might accost her with an unceremonious "Well, Missus! what can I do for you?" but the criminals felt they were in the presence of a friend; and when the Recorder of Birmingham came to Bristol she welcomed his advent with a "thrill of exultation," for she recognised the power of the ally she had gained. His strong personality and his large experience as a criminal judge greatly assisted her to carry out her projected reforms among prisons and industrial schools, while Rosamond at once began to help her with the St. James's Back Ragged School, of which Miss Carpenter was one of the original promoters and founders. Here Rose took the arithmetic classes by preference, and soon gave proof of her earnestness by her regular and punctual attendance. That she also became greatly interested in the children will be seen by the following extract from her journal while travelling with her parents and sisters in Northern Italy.

"*Sunday, October 31st*, 1852.—. . . I amused myself with writing an account of my travels in a letter to my pupils at the Ragged School, such as I hope they can comprehend. I am very anxious they should not think I forget them, for if I am to effect any good among them it must be through their love of me."

Her own love for little children was becoming more manifest every day. At Venice when visiting the Ducal Palace she writes of Titian's fresco: "It is a St. Christopher carrying Christ as a little Child across the water, and I think it is the finest Titian I have seen here. It pleases me the most. The little Child is represented sitting on St. Christopher's shoulders with the legs round his neck, and holding the garment St. Christopher wears. The Saint is turning up his face towards the Child and his countenance is very fine. But I like the Child the best."

And of a picture, probably by Zurbaran, she also writes: "But the gem of the picture, indeed the gem of the room, is a group in the front of the picture of a mother and her little boy. They are both kneeling and the mother is impressing the child with veneration for the

Pope. The mother's face is very fine, but the whole figure of the child is beautiful. It looks as if you could lift him up to kiss. He is perhaps from five to seven years old."

They travelled through most of the towns of Northern Italy, admiring the vines with their autumn tints hanging on the trees as clematis does at home, and noticing the traces of the French occupation. At Mantua, for example, they had re-christened the Church of St. Maurice by the title of "St. Napoleon," in large gold letters which the Austrians were then vainly trying to erase.

Most of the travelling had still to be done by *vetturino* in relays of carriages, all the arrangements and disbursements being apparently in Rosamond's hands. They must have been on the whole a merry party.

"*Saturday October 23rd.*— . . . Our first driver was very handsome and put on a most fascinating smile when he spoke to the ladies. Florry said I gave him more money for himself because he was so handsome. Our second, however, proved quite a character and amused us greatly."

It became advisable next year to move their home to higher ground, on account of their mother's indifferent health, and Heath House was selected, a dwelling beautifully situated above the village of Stapleton. From its green terrace, which had been copied, though on a small scale, from that overlooking Rivaulx Abbey, it commanded a grand view over land and water. They remained here for twenty years, so that it became the most permanent home that the sisters ever knew, and one that was very dear to them. It was associated with all manner of reform movements in which both Mr. and Mrs. Hill were deeply interested. When Mrs. Chisholm was so actively advocating the emigration of working women to Australia she stayed there, and Mr. Hill lent her the use of his Court in which to hold a meeting. The arrangements were left entirely to Rose and Florence, and notwithstanding the very short notice they were able to give, such great crowds of young women attended the meeting that many had to be accommodated in an adjoining room. Mrs. Chisholm herself accompanied whole batches of girls on the long

sailing-ship voyage to Australia. Rosamond arranged for one of the Bristol Ragged School girls to go out with the next party, and she took her and her outfit to London at the appointed time. Two days before the sailing of the ship, however, she received word at the friend's house where she was staying that the girl was in an unfit condition to be taken, as she was suffering from a kind of skin disease; but that if another of like stature could be found for whom the same outfit would serve, she might be sent in place of the first. Rose set to work with prompt decision. She wired to her sister at Bristol, who selected another girl; the grandmother with whom she lived was interviewed and persuaded to give her consent if the priest approved of it, —the latter was found—his hearty consent obtained, and the girl was prepared and thoroughly cleansed. As the train was moving off for London, however, the grandmother, having changed her mind, arrived upon the platform, only just too late to prevent the girl's departure. It was already dusk when she reached town, where Rose met her and took her down to Gravesend. Here a boat had to be obtained

to take them off to the ship, which was lying out in the river preparatory to sailing next day. By this time it was quite dark, and they were some time in finding the right vessel. Even when found their troubles were by no means over, for Mrs. Chisholm was asleep in her berth, tired out after a long day, and no one knew where the girl was to go, where the outfit was, or what was to be done. It was past ten o'clock before Miss Hill had disposed of her charge and could leave the vessel, so that she found it necessary to stay the night at a hotel in Gravesend. For a girl still in her twenties it was a considerable undertaking in those days to have carried through successfully and alone.

Rose was now giving more and more attention to the Bristol Ragged School. Shoemaking and tailoring had from the beginning been taught to the boys, and sewing to the girls. As yet neither cookery nor laundry work were thought of, but Rosamond's practical instincts suggested that a saving might be made and useful habits at the same time imparted if the children could be taught to clean the school themselves. After some reluctance on the part of Miss

Carpenter, who feared it would be a failure, and who even went so far as to predict "A profound mess," Miss Hill was allowed to organise the new arrangements. Brooms and other necessary utensils were purchased, in the use of which the needlework mistress volunteered to instruct and supervise, while a small payment was made to the children who undertook the work—thus demonstrating to them one of the practical results of doing what is useful. The whole soon proved the success that Miss Hill had anticipated. The school, which was supported by voluntary contributions, appreciated the saving that was made, the children did the cleaning well, and were very pleased to be able to earn.

Rosamond was allowed by her father and mother to invite the better behaved among them to come and have tea in the garden. Those who were not entitled to enter, lingered by the gate—"Paradise, with the little sinners outside," Miss Carpenter called it, but, not so strict as St. Peter is said to be, mercy reached them before long in the form of buns and cakes. This entertainment afterwards became annual and embraced nearly the whole school,

Miss Carpenter went to India in 1866, leaving the management of the Ragged School mainly in the hands of her brother-in-law and Rosamond Hill. It was eventually converted into a Day Industrial School, and finally closed in 1870, when School Boards came into operation.

Before leaving England Miss Carpenter also started a movement to establish an Industrial School for Girls. She summoned a few lady friends to her house for this purpose, among whom was Rosamond, and before they parted the latter was appointed to be the honorary treasurer of the new undertaking. She devoted much time to this institution, which was still continuing its valuable work at the close of the century. Indeed in 1886 the School Board for London were sending girls down to the Bristol Industrial School, pending the opening of similar institutions of their own.

Rosamond went abroad with her father in 1855, when her care of him during serious illness was devoted, even to the point of heroism. She never left his side, reading aloud to him continually—on one occasion actually doing so for sixteen hours out of the four and twenty.

Just before he had been taken ill they had visited Mettray together, that model French Reformatory which in a few years became one of the strong interests of her life. In October of the same year its Director, Frédéric-Auguste Demetz, returned Mr. Hill's visit, and came to stay with the family at Heath House.

By profession a French magistrate, this gentleman was now devoting the whole of his time to the reform of juvenile criminals. For this purpose he founded the Colonie Agricole at Mettray, a few miles from Tours, following as far as possible the family system he had seen at work at the Rauhe House near Hamburg, where the young offenders were parcelled off into separate cottage homes under the supervision of a house-father, and all were taught to take part in useful work, the proceeds of which went to aid in the maintenance of the establishment. Adapting the system to English needs, the Rev. Sydney Turner established similar houses for reform at Redhill, Surrey.

Three years later Miss Hill and her father themselves visited the Rauhe Haus, when she wrote to her sister at home a long and detailed

account of that institution. Describing the original old Rauhe Haus, in which Dr. Wichern first received the destitute children, she says: "It is an old house with a thatched roof. Father took off his hat to it and shaking hands with Dr. Wichern said, 'God bless you'."

Mettray was on rather a different plan. There they received Government assistance, and so were also hampered by its regulations.

The visit of M. Demetz to Stapleton produced a deep impression upon Rose, and she wrote an account of the first evening together which reminds us of her early veneration for Maria Edgeworth. Her description of the character of M. Demetz might with some justice have been applied to herself.

"We were of course delighted to receive him here. There is no person in the world for whom I feel so great a reverence—and with all his commanding talent he appears to be without vanity. He does not set himself upon a high pinnacle round which we humble individuals may stand and admire. He seems to think of himself very modestly, and is completely accessible to all. You may become intimate with him

at once. He appears perfectly amiable. . . . After dinner my father, becoming very tired, lay down and dozed on the sofa, so that Florry and I had the great honour of listening to M. Demetz for an hour and a half. He told us that he intended to speak no more in England of the way in which the Sunday is spent at Mettray. He says as a Frenchman he is profoundly humiliated at the Parisian way of spending the day. It is not in Paris respected, but he thinks a happy medium may be hit between making no difference between Sunday and week day and our English puritanical way of spending the Sabbath. No work, I mean no field work or handicraft work is done on Sundays at Mettray, but work that M. Demetz considers is done for the good of others is always pursued. There is a fire brigade always ready to go to the assistance of any fire in the neighbourhood—this brigade always practises on a Sunday, and swimming, which is taught that the *Colons* may be ready to save a drowning person, is, during the summer, likewise practised. M. Demetz said: 'I have been feeling the pulse of the English with respect to the Sunday and

I find it will not do to say anything more about our way of passing it'.

"He said he liked Parisians, who were clever and full of *espièglerie* and mischief, but had no malice in their natures. One day at Mettray one of the teachers asked a Parisian boy how many Prefects there were?

"The child answered: 'Eighty-seven'.

"'You have made a mistake,' said the teacher, 'there are only eighty-six departments, and therefore only eighty-six Prefects.'

"The child answered: 'No, monsieur, eighty-seven'.

"Rather ruffled by the answer the teacher said: 'Do not contradict me. When I tell you anything you should believe me.'

"The boy persisted in saying, 'Eighty-seven,' and evidently by his answers was trying to make the teacher a little angry. When he saw that he had excited him sufficiently he said: 'Yes, monsieur, eighty-seven—for there is the Prefect of Police, who has taken so great an interest in me I could not possibly forget him!'"

The following morning the conversation turned on the Ragged School, with respect to

which M. Demetz made many inquiries, especially as to whether the girls and boys were taught together or separately. On hearing that the former was the case he said: "Ah, you are perhaps obliged to do it, it is more economical, but I do not like it. I saw the Industrial School at Birmingham and there I saw girls of fifteen with the boys. I do not think it is a good plan—for little children it does not matter, but not for those as old as fifteen. There are *petites attractions*. Neither is it proper for the master to teach girls, it is a bad thing."

"We have never found the least harm result from our plan," Rose replied; "I fear it does not speak highly for the state of morals in France."

But Demetz was too wise a man to press this argument; he merely rejoined: "Perhaps the English character is better than the French and it may not be hurtful here". And then they spoke of Lord Brougham's recent visit to Mettray and laughed over some of his witty sayings.

M. Demetz delivered an address in French at Mr. Hill's rooms. The *Times* correspondent,

who had been invited to attend, finding himself unable to follow the speaker, accepted the offer of Rosamond and Florence Hill to take down the speech for him, and it was printed as they wrote it.

Mr. Hill and his daughters shortly afterwards brought out a book, which passed into a second edition, entitled *Our Exemplars, Rich and Poor* (Cassell & Co, 1860). It consisted of twenty-eight short biographical sketches, of which ten were prepared by Rosamond, including the account of Frédéric-Auguste Demetz.

During the Franco-German war in 1870 hard times fell upon the colony at Mettray, as upon so many other innocent and defenceless people. In his great necessity M. Demetz turned once more for advice and sympathy to Rosamond Hill and her father. Nor did he turn in vain. As early as 3rd November, 1870, we find that the Minutes of the Philanthropic Society record how "the treasurer announced that he had received letters from M. Demetz asking him to use all the influence in his power to persuade the Prussian authorities to spare Mettray in the course of their military operations against

France, in the deplorable war now raging in that country".

"The treasurer had done his utmost in the matter with the Prussian ambassador and he hoped good would result from his intervention."

As soon as communications were again open between the two countries M. Demetz wrote in reply to inquiries from his friend in England :—

"METTRAY, *le 15e février*, 1871.

"CHÈRE MADEMOISELLE ET AMIE,

"Je vous écris aussitôt mon retour de Dourdan où je m'étais rendu à l'occasion des élections. . . . Ce ne sera que lorsque les communications seront rétablies qu'il me sera possible de vous faire connaître le sort de nos colons partis pour l'armée. Je ne puis non plus vous préciser d'une manière exacte l'étendue de nos sacrifices qui se renouvellent malheureusement tous les jours. D'un autre côté le service de la poste se fait très irrégulièrement, peu de lettres envoyées ou reçues parviennent. J'attendrai donc pour vous envoyer mon travail que la paix soit signée, ce que j'ose l'espérer ne tardera pas. Mon intention est de partir immédiate-

ment pour l'Angleterre, si toutefois vous croyez le moment opportun. Peut-être, à cette époque de l'année, l'aristocratie est-elle encore dans ses terres? Malgré l'extrême pénurie dans laquelle nous nous trouvons j'ajournerai mon départ si vous le jugez convenable; je me règlerai à cet égard entièrement d'après vos conseils, dans lesquels j'ai une si grande confiance.

"Croyez chère Mademoiselle et Amie au bonheur que j'aurai à me trouver au milieu de votre famille après les angoisses que je viens d'éprouver; j'ai bien souffert!"

In answer to this appeal a Mettray Relief Fund was at once started, and in little more than two months from the date of the above letter several thousand pounds had been collected and forwarded to Mettray, the Hill family contributing in no mean degree. The circular prepared and distributed by the promoters of the fund set forth that it had been in the midst of the Prussian occupation, and that "though its buildings and its fields have been held sacred by the invading army its resources are exhausted. It has had first French soldiers and then a Prussian regiment to maintain for many consecutive

weeks, and the institution has supported an ambulance on which the whole attendance has been performed by the *Colons*.

"Its stores have disappeared. Flocks and herds gone. Hay and corn consumed. Not a farthing of subscription has been received since the war began, nor can the director, M. Demetz, hope that the usual departmental contributions will be forthcoming during the current year. . . . It is considered by those who deeply feel their obligations to the system pursued at Mettray, as their example in founding reformatory schools in England, that Mettray must not fall, and the above committee has been formed to give practical effect to this feeling."

The Lord Mayor contributed £500 from the French Relief Fund, Edmund Dwight from the United States sent as much more, and by 13th June the subscriptions had reached £2,483 16s. 8d. For the moment Mettray was saved, and Demetz was able to write, "Enfin vous le voyez, chère Mademoiselle, vos efforts à tous sont couronnés d'un plein succès".

But the work at Mettray was by no means

the only interest that occupied the active mind of Rosamond Hill. A movement had been set on foot for the formation of a society to study reformatory legislation, in which her father, Matthew Davenport-Hill, and Mary Carpenter both took a very keen interest. Rose managed most of the preparations for its first public meeting, which was held at Clifton in 1856, and was presided over by Lord Brougham. The society was then enlarged into one for the promotion of social science.

In the summer of that year Mr. Hill and his two elder daughters went to Ireland to attend the meeting of the British Association at Dublin, but they first landed at Cork, where they took occasion to visit the recent grave of Father Mathew, in whom Rose had been so much interested as a young girl. "We found a cross and a plain marble slab," she writes, "with this inscription, 'Father Mathew, the Apostle of Temperance, born 1790—died 6th December, 1856'. Round his grave were poor people praying—the finest testimonial to such a man as Father Mathew."

The prisons on Spike Island they examined

together and also the prisons of Dublin, all at that time under the direction of the late Sir Walter Crofton, who remained to the end of his life one of Rosamond's most valued friends. On her return from Ireland she wrote a paper called "A Lady's Visit to the Irish Convict Prisons". Some of her remarks about Mountjoy show clearly enough that her mind was already becoming aware of the supreme importance of practical education. "We were taken into the boys' schoolroom in order that we might hear the school-master give his pupils a lesson. He put questions to his pupils on several subjects, and on social economy and the moral duties of one man towards another, and the lesson was, I think, concluded by the pupils questioning each other. They all answered well, but one or two evidently took a deep interest, and in their eagerness to understand they quite forgot our presence. Their manner to their master was respectful but showed nothing servile; he had evidently won their esteem and affection. His manner of teaching was excellent and reminded me of that in practice at the Birkbeck Schools in London."

These schools were founded by William Ellis a few years before the date of the above, and were much in advance of anything existing at that time. No dogmatic religious teaching was allowed within their walls, but a great point was made of moral instruction. The pupils were led by questions to examine into conduct, and thus were brought by degrees to hold rational convictions on the subject of right and wrong. Such systematic instruction in duty was found to be of the utmost value in moulding character, and it is much to be regretted that it is so seldom practised at the present day.

Among the many articles written by Miss Hill at this time there is one in the *Irish Quarterly Review* for 1857 that is well worth quoting, as it illustrates her impartiality and fairness of judgment on denominational questions. After giving a detailed account of some of the Roman Catholic institutions of that country, and of the really excellent work they were doing, it finishes by inviting comparison with the £30,000 a year spent in attempts at conversion by the Irish Church Missions. "What are the results of this expenditure?" she asks,

"especially that portion of it devoted to the conversion of the poor, the destitute, and the starving? These unfortunate creatures are fed to induce them to become Protestants: they are fed to bring them back to the faith of their fathers. Will not they be likely to vibrate between the two religions, a Romanist at breakfast, a Protestant at dinner, and are they not almost certain to become neither before evening? Do not the efforts to convert these poor creatures result in making, as an Irish Protestant agreed with me in thinking, more hypocrites than true converts? Would it not, therefore, be as well to consider whether the money collected for this purpose might not be better spent on our heathens at home than in vainly trying to turn Irish Roman Catholics into Protestants? Let us remember the words of Gamaliel, 'And now I say unto you, refrain from these men and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men it will come to nought: but if it be of God ye cannot overthrow it, lest haply ye be found even to fight against God'.

"I would earnestly recommend all who enter-

tain a horror of Catholicism in Ireland to visit the convents of the nuns or the houses of the Christian Brothers, access to which is readily obtained, and just see for themselves what that religion is, and what it does. They must cease to regard it as so very terrible after they have conversed with those men and women who devote themselves heart and soul to the labour of relieving the poor, nursing the sick, teaching the young, and reforming the vicious. . . .

"And let us remember that with those ladies and gentlemen the work is never intermitted: they do not, in the intervals of their charitable labours, seek recreation and amusement by means of social intercourse with their friends: having once set their hand to the plough they never look back. Such devotion we must confess is rare among us Protestants."

On all occasions Miss Hill was ready to appreciate to the full the good work done by those who held opinions differing from her own. Indeed, in later days, when a member of the London School Board, this characteristic was not always relished by the more ardent spirits of her own party.

Early in the year 1858 she left home with her father on a voyage to Spain. His health had been failing considerably and it was necessary for him to take a long holiday with complete rest. They were away for five months; towards the close of which time, as soon as ever returning strength permitted, the journey was converted into a tour of inspection of European prisons and reformatories. Starting in a P. and O. steamer from Southampton they landed at Gibraltar on the 24th of March. When they again left the rock fortress it was in a small vessel bound for Saint-Nazaire at the mouth of the Loire, and a very uncomfortable voyage they had. The cabin floor was so continually under water that Rose slept with goloshes under her pillow, and she was rendered uneasy as to the safety of the vessel by observing that when night came on the helmsman left the wheel to go and fetch his own lantern. The food and accommodation being to match, they were right glad when they landed safely on French soil. Proceeding first to Mettray they afterwards penetrated as far as Munich, and then made their way north to Hamburg on the

visit to the Rauhe Haus which has been already mentioned.

As soon as they were home again Rosamond plunged into her work at Bristol, and also prepared some articles for magazines. She contributed to the total abstinence publication, *Meliora*, and wrote for the *Victoria Magazine*, edited by Emily Faithful, of which the avowed object was the immediate suppression of alcoholic drinks. The lady editor, however, proved too exacting in her requirements, and Miss Hill found herself unable to continue her contributions because she would not subscribe to the sentiment that "alcohol was a *snare* in the sick room". But she wrote on her own account a pamphlet entitled the *Unholy Alliance*, the alliance in question being that between hospitality and drink, and she also edited several things for Cassell in the teetotal cause. No extreme views on the subject were advocated by her, nor did she ever join a total abstinence association. In the cause of practical temperance, however, she used to provide the men who delivered her coal with hot coffee and bread and butter in lieu of beer money,

a change which they in every case gladly accepted.

The subject, however, which interested Rose above all others at this epoch was the treatment of prisoners—more especially perhaps of female prisoners. There is a paper written by her on the "Petting and Fretting of Female Prisoners" published in *Meliora*, and she also wrote one entitled *The Unrighteousness of the Lex Talionis* which consists of able pleading against the severity of the treatment of criminals that prevailed in the middle of the nineteenth century. She defines her *Lex Talionis* to mean "the infliction of pain in order to punish a man who has broken the law of his country, has injured his fellow-citizens, and is a pest to society".

She admits that "Justice, or at least expediency, would demand such punishment if it could be made an effective lesson to himself and an abiding terror to all other evil-doers, but as long experience has shown us that it can never be either the one or the other, surely we should seek some more efficient means of accomplishing these objects. . . . By a lesson to himself, of

course, we mean the reformation of the criminal, and by a terror to all other evil-doers we mean the putting an end to their vicious courses, lest they themselves should be brought to a like end. These are the only legitimate objects to be attained by punishment and it is unreasonable to expect their accomplishment by the infliction of pain for its own sake."

The whole paper centres round the question, Can we render the criminal *unwilling to offend?* And this she answers by stating that our only means of accomplishing this object will be to ensure his reformation. She had not yet attacked the still more important question of how to render the young *unwilling to become criminals;* nor did she realise at that time that our best hope for the further prevention of crime as well as pauperism will lie in a wiser handling of the rising generation—that efforts directed towards systematic instruction to the young in right and wrong conduct, efforts that must at the same time influence their aspirations and ideals, will yield far more fruit than any amount of labour among the adult population of our prisons.

In the summer of 1872 the family life of the Hills at Bristol was abruptly broken up by the death of the beloved father. The mother had already passed away five years previously. During his life Matthew Davenport-Hill had succeeded in imbuing his daughters with some of his own wisdom and goodness, and he had trained them in most valuable habits of independent thought and benevolent action. To his example may be attributed their devotion to duty, both public and private, including the promptitude and punctuality with which they met all engagements, while to their parents' kind providence was due the comfortable income which enabled them to pursue their philanthropic career, and at the same time to dispense a liberal hospitality to family and friends.

Rosamond and Florence now left Bristol and entered upon that affectionate and happy partnership which closed only with the close of life.

CHAPTER III.

ENTRY ON PUBLIC LIFE. THE FIRST ELECTION. DIVISIONAL WORK. THE SECOND ELECTION. COOKERY.

AFTER the death of Matthew Davenport-Hill, in 1872, Rosamond and her sister Florence undertook a voyage to Australia. On their way through Paris they saw their dear friend M. Demetz for the last time. When they returned next year he had passed away, worn out by a long life spent in attempting to rescue children from the ranks of crime.

The trip to Australia had been planned in the first instance with a view to visiting relatives who were living near Adelaide, but armed with introductions from the Colonial Office their tour developed into a journey through the three southern colonies, where the sisters inspected every available school, asylum, prison and reformatory, making at the same time close in-

quiries into the colonial manner of dealing with destitute children by boarding them out among the people. They landed at Adelaide on 2nd April, 1873, and spent eight months on the continent, at the end of which time Rose visited Tasmania. Then they returned together early in 1874 by way of Egypt and Italy. The result of their investigations, together with their impressions of the country, they embodied in their book *What We Saw in Australia* (Macmillan & Co.). It gives an accurate view of the southern colonies and of their State institutions as they were in the early seventies, with their comparatively small population, small public debt, and unhampered by their present much larger percentage of crime and destitution. The course of these inquiries brought the two ladies into contact with Mr., afterwards Sir Henry, Parkes, a leading politician in New South Wales, who conducted them through many State schools and other institutions, becoming in the course of these visits much impressed with their devotion to charitable work. He even made a formal offer to Miss Hill that she should take over the

direction of the Reformatory for Girls, which was at that time in a most deplorable condition. For a moment she hesitated, believing it might be an opportunity for usefulness that she ought not to neglect, while he on his part did his best to tempt her to remain, adding by way of inducement that he believed they would be able to offer her as much as £100 a year!

"Shall I be allowed to appoint my own officers?" inquired she, to which he replied that he was afraid the Government would not see their way to accede to that request, which at once decided her to refuse the offer, for she clearly perceived that under such conditions it would be impossible to introduce the necessary reforms in management.

While in Sydney the Misses Hill made the acquaintance and lasting friendship of Sir William Windeyer and his talented and charming wife. The judge took a very prominent part in New South Wales politics, lending his support to the Free Trade party. At the time of their visit he was chairman of the Public Charities Commission, of which he had obtained the appointment, and at his request the sisters

and their cousin, Miss Clark from Adelaide, gave evidence before it on English charities and the boarding-out system, while he on his side gave them information concerning similar establishments in New South Wales. Of the boarding out of pauper children he was a strong advocate, and with his wife took an important part in obtaining its adoption in his own colony.

In the report of the commission which was published in Sydney in 1874 we find the evidence of the two Misses Hill frequently quoted, and the following admirable summary, drawn up by Rosamond, is printed in full. It is a good example of her lucid understanding and thorough knowledge of the subject, and partly explains the method by which she was able to make such a success of all the industrial schools that came under her care.

"A SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPLES OF REFORMATORY TREATMENT, WITH A SPECIAL REFERENCE TO GIRLS.

"It is the lack of good home influence which, in the great majority of cases, brings girls into the condition necessitating reformatory train-

ing. In order to change them into respectable members of society, *i.e.* to *re*-form them, we must as far as possible supply to them that wholesome family life which they have not before enjoyed; therefore a prison with its bolts and bars should never be used for their dwelling place.

"The number of girls in a reformatory or industrial school must be small, or they must be subdivided into distinct groups, each group resembling a real family as nearly as possible, and occupying a dwelling to itself. This arrangement would facilitate the separation of Catholics from Protestants, and the placing them under the care of persons of their respective faiths. But a number of these groups living in small houses near each other might unite for purposes of secular instruction in a common schoolroom.

"It is, above all, essential to imbue the children with a *love of work*. Therefore care must be taken to prevent their labour from being either beyond their strength or too monotonous, creating in them in either case a distaste for work.

"A sufficient amount of recreation must be

allowed—it must never be forgotten that we are dealing with children.

"The members of each group or family should, as far as possible, do the whole work of their own house—baking, washing and ironing and the making of their own clothes and household linen, mattresses and pillows, inclusive. It is also essential that the children should frequently go beyond the boundaries of the institution, especially that they should go to a place of public worship.

"The girls should also be employed—as it is found they can be trusted—to do errands for the household; they should be trained gradually to market and to shop in order that when they leave the school and go to service they should know how to purchase for their employers and to buy their own clothes—in fact, how to manage their wages with economy.

"It must always be borne in mind that the training the girls receive in the institution is a means to an end—not an end in itself; and that therefore, however perfect the order and discipline of the school may be, unless the girls are allowed a certain amount of voluntary

action and power of self-government, it will not prepare them for life after they have quitted its roof.

"When the girls enter the school, they are idle, dirty and very probably untruthful and dishonest. The aim of the managers is to render them industrious, cleanly and honest. As the training gradually improves them, they will require less supervision, which should diminish by degrees as they become more and more able to govern themselves, until, when the times comes for their quitting the institution, they shall be able to fight the battle of life successfully for themselves.

"Rewards and punishments, indispensable in reformatory and industrial schools, should be, whenever possible, the natural consequence of the girls' conduct—not on the one side an indulgence, or on the other an infliction of pain arbitrarily awarded by the managers. Good conduct should better the position of the girls in the school; and on the other hand, bad conduct should worsen it.

"This end will be most easily attained by allowing the girls to earn their privileges by

their own efforts and to lose them by bad conduct.

"The best means of registering their behaviour is by the use of the mark system.

"A certain number of marks gained by industry and good conduct should raise the girls in rank in the school. Bad conduct and idleness should take away their marks, and deprive them of the privileges they had earned, with the power of *re*-earning the marks and of regaining their position by their subsequent good conduct.

"Thus, on entering the school a girl would necessarily possess no marks, and would therefore be at its bottom. A certain number of marks earned would raise her a stage, and would entitle her to certain privileges; a further number of marks would raise her to a second stage and entitle her to more privileges and so on until she has reached the highest stage of all. In the course of climbing to the highest stage, the girl would gradually acquire that perseverance and self-control essential to her well-doing when she quits the school. The strict discipline under which she has been placed on admission would slacken by degrees, until as the time of

her departure approached she would almost govern herself.

"By this time she would have become trustworthy, and would be accorded a certain degree of liberty. For instance, she might be permitted to go out on errands with a companion of similar rank in the school, and might have an allowance for the purchase of some part at least of her clothing.

"Great care must be taken to prevent the ascent from being too difficult, and it must be made more easy to rise in the lower stages than in the higher, because the first efforts at self-control are always the hardest. The girl must not on the one side be disheartened by the too great steepness of the ascent, nor on the other must the privileges lose in value by the too great facility of their attainment. The advance from stage to stage should be so arranged that the girl should be able to reach the highest at least six months before the term of her detention expires.

"The foregoing remarks are founded on practical experience, and no plan is suggested which has not been in successful operation.

"They apply specially to schools in which girls enter at an early age, and where they remain for some years. Those committed above twelve years old should be dealt with in separate institutions, and for these of course the plan described would require modification. For instance, the shorter term of detention would probably necessitate either fewer stages or a more rapid transition from one to another. There would be less school instruction and more industrial work, and the privileges would be different—adapted to the more advanced ages of the girls.

"In order that the management of reformatory and industrial schools should be successful, it is essential to secure voluntary, *i.e.*, unpaid assistance.

"In England the voluntary managers of these schools attest their interest in them by subscribing towards their funds; but as the power of legally detaining the pupils, and pecuniary aid from the State are indispensable, justice demands that the managers should submit to Government inspection.

"A committee of ladies and gentlemen should

be formed to direct the management, which should be carried on under their auspices by paid officials.

"The volunteer manager acquires an influence over the inmates of these schools distinct in character from that of the paid official, and very beneficial to the children. The leisure class from which necessarily the volunteers must be drawn, possess the mental culture and training necessary for surmounting the difficulties inherent in the application of reformatory science —under their guidance the hard-working, conscientious, paid official will be able to carry the undertaking to a successful issue.

"But the work of the managers is not complete when their pupils quit the industrial school. They will require, when put out into the world, friendly supervision, which may be found necessary for some years."

Among the institutions visited by Miss Hill, and fully described in her book on Australia, none impressed her more than the Liverpool Asylum for Men, situated some fourteen miles from Sydney. Here she found 200 of the aged and infirm enjoying a comfortable existence under

the management of a matron, the whole work of the place being done by the inmates themselves in return for small payments with which they were able to procure themselves extras in the form of butter or fruit. This system struck her as being simpler and far less costly than that pursued at home.

After their return to England the sisters were occupied for several years in bringing out their book on Australia and in preparing the Memoir of their father (*Memoir of Matthew Davenport-Hill*, Macmillan & Co., 1872). The study of the material for this book and the working out of the thoughts it suggested did much to prepare Miss Hill for the very responsible work that awaited her on the London School Board. During the preparation of the Memoir Rosamond and Florence decided to adopt their father's second name, Davenport, a step they thought it advisable to take in order to differentiate themselves from their intimate friend Miss Octavia Hill, whose correspondence and personality had been frequently confused with their own.

In August, 1878, the two sisters accompanied

by their brother Alfred went to Stockholm to attend a meeting of the International Prison Congress, which their father had helped to originate, and they thoroughly enjoyed the brilliant reception accorded by Sweden to her foreign visitors, as well as the kindness of their own new-found Swedish friends. Although taking no part in the discussions, the matters laid before the congress interested Miss Hill deeply, and so did the excursion to the prison at Upsala. While the visitors were being shown round, she inquired specially as to the amount of education possessed by the inmates, for instance, whether they could read and write? She was informed that this was certainly the case—with a very small exception. Then followed inquiries as to the class from which this "small exception" was drawn, when she elicited the avowal, accompanied by a smile, that it was composed entirely of *three English sailors*, recently admitted. A burst of laughter testified to the joy of the international reformers present, in which Miss Hill and her countrymen were fain to join. At Upsala and elsewhere the members of the congress were thoroughly fêted, and were

taken to see all local objects of interest, such as the famous translation of the Bible made by Ulfilas the Goth in the fourth century, and which still remains the earliest known specimen of any Teutonic tongue, and almost the only example of the language of the Goths. A few scattered portions of this same work are preserved in Italy, and curiously enough Miss Hill and her sister had already examined one of them many years before in the library at Milan. They also visited the old burial mounds of Thor, Woden and Freia, and we have a glimpse of the Governor of Upsala standing on the top of the last and highest of them, pledging his guests in mead drunk from a horn of generous dimensions, which was then passed round among the company. When the gay doings were over our party travelled home by way of Gottenberg and the Falls of Trolhätten. Arrived once more in England the two sisters established themselves in a house in Belsize Avenue in 1879.

Rosamond Davenport-Hill was now in the prime of life. Although below the medium height, she was by no means without dignity,

and possessed a well-balanced mind and a sound judgment. Somewhat quick of temper she was nevertheless genial, and ever ready for fun, even to the extent of joining merrily in an occasional laugh against herself, while her power of dramatic reading, which had been manifest in childhood, was now quite remarkable. All who knew the sisters in their comfortable home could not but be charmed with their affectionate and lively intercourse. Nephews, nieces, and young cousins surrounded them and loved them, receiving at need a generous helping hand, and at all times a great and loving welcome.

It need scarcely perhaps be added that they were of earnestly religious mind. The sacred paintings of Raffaele particularly appealed to Rose; but in her own room, in the place of honour, hung a fine engraving of the Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci. Having been trained from childhood to think for herself, she had already decided to leave the Church of England and join the Unitarian Communion.

As to her capacity for public work Miss Adelaide Manning said that "having been especially fitted by training for philanthropic

work, and having been brought early into contact with the obstacles in the way of public aims and efforts, she had gained valuable experience at a time of life when most workers are only beginning to realise that such obstacles have to be encountered. This experience was one great source of her usefulness. It saved her from wasting her time on futile schemes and fruitless endeavours, it held her back from hasty action, it accustomed her to keep in view and to deal patiently with the ideas and prejudices of others."

Such in outline was Rosamond Davenport-Hill when she came forward at the close of the seventies to devote herself to work on the London School Board, a labour that was continued for nearly twenty years without intermission.

The first person to propose that she should offer herself for election to the Board was her friend Mrs. Westlake, wife of the well-known Q.C. and herself a member of the Board. This lady suggested that she should stand for the Borough of Westminster, a proposal that was seconded by Miss Helen Taylor, the dis-

tinguished step-daughter of John Stuart Mill. Meantime she had been introduced to Mr. Washington Lyon, common councillor, who immediately wanted her to stand for the City Division, where he promised his support: on the other hand Mrs. Westlake assured her that in the City a woman would have no chance whatever.

After careful consideration Miss Davenport-Hill decided nevertheless to take this chance, and to offer herself for election in the City—the only constituency in which there happen to be no women voters. Several influential men promised their support, and her committee met during the autumn of 1879 in the Guildhall Tavern. There was no chairman, for the very good reason, she said, that no one would be! She had written to invite the Rev. John Rogers, Vicar of Charterhouse, to occupy that position, but had received no reply. The first public meeting was by no means well attended, and the prospect looked gloomy enough, when Mr. J. G. S. Anderson, of the great shipping firm, and his wife, Dr. Garrett Anderson, threw themselves with vigour into the work, and afforded

most effective help in the management of the election. Thanks to the efforts of the committee generally, and her own hard work, she was returned second on the poll, and took her place among the Progressive party on the London School Board on 5th December, 1879.

Sir Charles Reid was the chairman, the vice-chairman being the Rev. John Rogers to whom she had vainly appealed for support during the election; however he now proved quite friendly.

Miss Davenport-Hill at once plunged into detail work. She joined the Industrial School Committee together with Mrs. Westlake, taking the school at Brentwood under her immediate care, although she often visited the Shaftesbury Training Ship also, which was under the supervision of Mrs. Westlake; and she joined the Needlework Sub-Committee, of which her friend was chairman, a department which was apparently much in need of supervision. The labour of starting London's great educational machine had been overwhelming in the first few years, so that it had not been possible to fully organise every department. In the needlework

section little or no attempt had been made to sell the garments when completed, the stock was accumulating and accounts had not been kept. The two ladies set to work with energy and soon effected notable improvements. In addition to this work Miss Davenport-Hill served from the beginning to the end of her membership upon one of the most important departments of the Board, called the School Management Committee, of which Mark Wilks was then chairman; and at the Board School in Greystoke Place, the only one then existing in the City, she also tackled almost single-handed the heavy work of the Divisional Committee. This consisted principally in carrying out the recent law for compulsory attendance, to attain which object each division had its superintendent, with a staff of officers called visitors under his control, whose duty it was to ascertain the name and address of every child of school age, and use their best efforts to persuade the parents to send them to school. When these efforts fail the superintendent serves the parent with a printed notice, warning him that he is committing a breach of the law, and then a second notice is

sent, called Notice B, summoning him to appear before the Divisional Committee to account for his children's absence from school. Claims for remittance of the small school fee were also brought before these meetings. Miss Hill has left us an interesting account of the difficult questions that have to be solved at the Notice B meetings, in a paper read before the Birmingham meeting of the Social Science Congress in 1884. She points out that "the Divisional Committee needs not only patience and discrimination, but some knowledge of the class of parents with whom they have to deal. . . . We must not yield a facile credence to applications, however plausible. They are frequently made by parents who prefer the help their children can afford them to the welfare of their offspring. In all such cases it is extremely difficult to arrive at a right conclusion—to avoid, on the one hand, sinking into the Charybdis of a too easy faith, and, on the other, striking on the Scylla of harshness or positive injustice."

If, after the Notice B meeting, any parents or children still remain refractory they are summoned before a magistrate, who can fine

the former and commit the latter to an industrial school.

"Our system, then—to recapitulate—commences by persuasion; for the diminishing numbers with whom that does not avail we adopt more stringent measures; while for the comparatively few who still resist we have recourse to the industrial school."

In many divisions it became the practice to leave the Notice B work to the superintendent, but Miss Hill made a point of being present herself. She considered that "among other advantages an interview with the parent affords the member knowledge, invaluable in framing the bye-laws, and further enables him, while he coerces the negligent and vicious parent, to prevent the law from bearing with severity on the purely unfortunate—a discretionary power not easily to be given to the superintendent. On the other hand, the parent discovers that the Board's coercive rules are not framed in ignorance of or in lack of sympathy with the obstacles to his children's attendance at school—obstacles he must remove, but which in their removal entail on him no inconsiderable amount

of painful sacrifice. For obvious reasons, too, he will receive unpalatable advice, nay, an occasional severe rebuke, with greater profit when the member's duty is not delegated to a subordinate."

It may be imagined that these interviews, if sometimes painful, yet often had their humorous side. A little girl who appeared to explain her sister's absence from school replied to the chairman's questions: "Please, mum, mother has twins and a wooden leg". And a woman who had been summoned before the committee began her remarks with: "Oh, mam, I'm so pleased to see a *lady* in the chair. Now I can tell you all my ailments!" The following sketch, which appeared in a popular paper of the day, gives a vivid and realistic account of a Notice B meeting: "A thin wiry little woman, better dressed than the average, wearing on her head an exceptionally tall bonnet of purple plush and crimson 'bobs' that seemed to shake defiantly at everybody, was the next to be questioned.

"'Wot 'ave yer brought me 'ere for?' she cracked out without any preliminary—'me, a respectable married woman with six childer

livin' in my own house, and payin' rates to keep the likes o' you putting your nose through folks' doors that don't invite you, and don't want you——'

"'Mrs. Simpson!' interrupted the chairman.

"'And honest hard-working men's dinners spoiling and meat as dear as ninepence a pound with bone, all because I've got rheumatics dreadful, having been subject to the same since hinfancy, which is before your time, through a bust waterspout running down the wall and peeling the paper off and the landlord too mean to mend it, though he did take the collection at the church every Sunday in a high hat and a gold-handled umbrella. Wot I say is——'

"It took Mrs. Simpson another ten minutes to say it. Then the president got in a word edgeways:—

"'Why do you keep your son Thomas away from school every Monday, and your daughter Jennie every Thursday?'

"'Dyspepsia,' replied Mrs. Simpson with unexpected brevity.

"'Then Thomas has dyspepsia regularly every Monday, eh?'

"'He have, sir.'

"'And Jennie has it every Thursday?'

"'She do, sir.'

"'Wonderful!' exclaimed the chairman incredulously.

"'We're a family of reg'lar habits, sir,' said Mrs. Simpson unblushingly.

"'Well,' suggested the officer, 'will you try to arrange for Thomas and Jennie to have their dyspepsia on the same day—Sunday preferred?'

"Mrs. Simpson left the room in doubt as to whether she could make any such arrangement."

One of the most frequent excuses for non-attendance at school was the plea of "no boots". A girl selling flowers in the street observed to one of her customers: "There goes Miss Davenport-Hill. She made me send my sister to school, although I told her she had no boots. She is a very just lady!"

Work such as this on the Divisional Committee, demanding as it did kindliness, judgment and perspicacity, was admirably done by Rose. From the first she set herself steadfastly to learn the details of the work of the Board in its

various committees, including, as we have already seen, a personal knowledge of the parents and children with whom they were called upon to deal. But in the debates at the weekly Board meeting she never took much part, turning her attention to work rather than to argument, so much so that during the first six months after her election she never spoke at all.

She would sit in her place at the Board, listening and quietly knitting as she listened, till at last her friends told her that she really must say something on the important subject of enlarging the truant school, a measure that was much needed; whereupon she spoke a few words in favour of it, concluding with the remark that "there is a certain grim humour in committing children when we have no place to commit them to".

Recalling in after years the conduct of the 1879 Board, Miss Davenport-Hill declared that it was not on the whole favourable to its lady members and showed but scant respect to their opinions. Then a smile would light her face, and she would say with a little sigh: "Ah, but we were able to spend more in those days".

At the next triennial election for the School Board a room in the Guildhall Tavern was again hired for Miss Davenport-Hill's committee, of which Sir John Lubbock consented to be chairman. At one of the public meetings during this election a member of the audience rose to complain that Miss Hill had scarcely spoken a word during the whole of the previous session, that she had done nothing but knit and so forth, to which she at once replied that it was the first time she had heard a woman complained of for using her tongue too little and her hands too much, a sentiment that was received with laughter and applause, and which completely turned the sense of the meeting against the objector.

During this candidature Mr. E. N. Buxton spoke in her favour, while both Mr. Lyulph Stanley and Miss Edith Simcox were among her supporters. She was returned, but it was only at the bottom of the poll.

In addition to all her former work Miss Davenport-Hill now joined the Cookery Committee, and in a short time was elected chairman, a position that she retained throughout the rest

of her time on the Board. The teaching of cookery had been begun almost from the first, but owing to the great pressure of work already referred to very little progress had been made, and there were only twenty cooking centres in operation. Ten years later the number had increased to 160. In 1882 the whole subject was still in an experimental stage, and it was doubtful if it would succeed. Miss Davenport-Hill was keenly alive to the practical value of such teaching, and threw herself into the work with vigour and determination. Opposition from all sides had to be encountered and overcome. Parents objected to it, fancying their daughters already knew what was necessary; head-masters objected to it, on the ground that time thus taken up would prevent their pupils passing the examination in French or other special subjects that were useless to the children, but without which the masters' incomes would suffer; and the Board were alarmed lest it should unduly increase their already growing expenditure. Among the pupils alone was it popular. Miss Davenport-Hill now took up the work, sparing neither purse nor pains to make it a success.

She has been known to start from her home in Hampstead as early as 7 A.M. on a winter's morning, undeterred by any kind of weather, in order to visit a centre on the opposite side of London where the cookery teacher was in difficulties; and here she would spend hours by her side, advising, helping and mastering details of attendance. These she succeeded in arranging so as to interfere as little as possible with other school work, labouring continually to smooth over opposition and difficulties till the whole scheme was made acceptable to the general body of teachers, and was also brought to cover its own expenses, that is to say that the sale of the produce of the cookery centres was made to cover the cost of the material used; indeed as time went on there was even a small surplus. One of the dangers to be guarded against was that of allowing the centres to degenerate into mere cook-shops instead of being schools of cookery. An excellent curriculum was drawn up and approved by the Board, simple yet varied, observing rigid economy with ingredients, and requiring none but elementary utensils. The objections on the part of parents were greatly

overcome by the fact that at first the attendance of the girls at the cookery classes was in practice optional, there not being room enough for all of them, so that where it was desired they were allowed to remain at their other lessons. But the cookery classes soon became so popular that parents even came in person to the centres to thank the teachers for what they were doing. Sometimes Miss Davenport-Hill herself was thanked for her share in this work by the driver of a cab who happened to recognise her, or by a policeman who was helping her to cross the street. In fact she had made the teaching thoroughly useful, and its value was patent to all concerned.

At the outset there had naturally been some difficulty in procuring a sufficient number of qualified teachers, and the Board attempted to train their own, but it was soon found better to take them from some of the already existing schools of cookery. They came for some months on probation, and were required to keep strict and accurate accounts of all that they spent or received in sale. At the end of their term of probation special cookery superinten-

dents advised whether they should be retained or not in the service.

Thus the whole organisation became a complete success. The children enjoyed it, the parents valued it, the expense was moderate, and the food prepared was excellent. By way of demonstrating this last, Miss Davenport-Hill invited some of her more sceptical colleagues to a luncheon prepared wholly at the cookery centres, and she arranged that cakes made by the children should adorn the ladies' tea-room at the Board. School teachers also began to purchase their dinners from adjoining centres in preference to getting them elsewhere, while on the other hand many a young servant girl has had her wages raised on account of knowledge gained at the London Board's School of Cookery, and many a poor home has been made more comfortable. Nor were the interests of the large body of cookery teachers overlooked. Sufficient intervals of rest or recreation were arranged, and a sick fund established.

In *Macmillan's Magazine* for June, 1884, there is an article by Miss Davenport-Hill entitled "Cookery Teaching under the London Board,"

which shows the progress made up to that date, and when she finally retired from work the united cookery teachers presented her with an elegant silver inkstand and an illuminated address setting forth in glowing terms their respect and their esteem.

CHAPTER IV.

BRENTWOOD. MAJORITY WORK.

THE re-organisation of the Brentwood Industrial School was another very important piece of work accomplished by Miss Davenport-Hill. Having been a member of the Industrial School Committee from the outset of her career on the Board, her attention was soon directed to the unsatisfactory state of the school at Brentwood. The discipline there was slack, the teaching inefficient, and the condition of the children far from what it should have been. She immediately joined the Brentwood Sub-Committee and threw her energies into the work of regeneration. The first thing to be done was to determine the cause of the evil. Here as elsewhere she spared herself no trouble, often going down to Brentwood when least expected, and even occasionally staying the night there in a hotel. Before long she came to the conclusion that the root of the

mischief lay with the principal members of the staff, the governor in particular being a most unsuitable man for his post. In these necessary but unpleasant investigations she had the assistance of her colleague, Mrs. Surr. Between them they left no room for doubt, and early in the coming year a new schoolmaster, Mr. Humphreys, was appointed, and as soon as possible a new governor also.

These appointments were singularly felicitous. They were both earnest-minded capable men, with a keen interest in their work, and the school was not long in responding—especially as Governor Hartland was very ably seconded by his wife in all the inner home life of the school. Under their management it quickly reached a high standard of efficiency. Indeed four years afterwards, in 1885, Her Majesty's Inspector reported that from being one of the worst of the industrial schools of England it had become one of the best. He found the school "in excellent order, all going on quietly and steadily. I have never seen the boys look better. I am gratified too by finding them in good tone and spirits. An excellent spirit prevails.

There is a good staff of officers, all apparently animated by one object, the improvement and progress of the children committed to their care. . . . I have been over the workshops and buildings and found all clean and carefully attended to. The new workshops are a most valuable acquisition and I also notice that the laundry has been put into efficient working order. The accommodation is now quite suitable and due provision made for every requirement. . . . The teachers have taken great pains with their classes and deserve my hearty commendation. I find the school going on very well, and managed with much tact, discretion, and experience."

Miss Davenport-Hill had now been elected chairman of the Brentwood Sub-Committee, where Mr. Ross, secretary of the Conservative Working Men's Association, was for some years her colleague. She had the happy faculty of being able to work harmoniously with every one, provided their intentions were upright, and with Mr. Ross she never had any disagreement. Visiting Brentwood at least once a week, she kept up a lively personal interest in both staff

and boys, the full number of the latter being a hundred, of whom she not only knew the names but the history of each. Her memory in this respect was indeed remarkable. If she once visited a school she would remember several years afterwards the names of all the teachers and their family circumstances, a singularly useful power to those called upon to organise and arrange for so many others, and springing in her case from a strong sympathy which certainly helped to endear her to the little homeless lads at Brentwood, and it would hardly be too much to say to the teachers also of all the schools under her control. She would sometimes go down to Brentwood on Sunday morning, arriving at the school as early as 8.30 A.M., and Governor Hartland said it was a thing to be remembered to hear the joyous shout of welcome with which the children rose to greet her. Well did she deserve their love. If any boy were in need of special medical advice she would either pay the fee herself or take him to London to see her brother, the distinguished surgeon, Berkeley Hill, who gladly gave her his services. Other medical friends

of high standing also kindly assisted in cases needing special treatment.

One little Brentwood boy was sent for a trip to the seaside at her expense; another she took to her own home for the night, arriving next morning with him at the school, herself carrying the big brown paper parcel of his clothing; and yet another lived for many weeks in her house while needing constant attention at the hospital.

In the summer season she used to send parties of the best boys to the Zoological Gardens, entertaining them afterwards at her home in Belsize Avenue, where a feast would be spread for them on the lawn, consisting of their favourite mashed potatoes and sausages, followed by an abundance of plum or apple pie, which no passing shower of rain ever induced them to desert. Games, music and recitations would close the proceedings. These were happy days for the boys and their good friend, as well as for all who assisted at the entertainment.

At the end of the school year the Board used to bestow a silver watch on the best boy as chosen by the officers. Miss Davenport-Hill added another as a prize to the best boy elected

by ballot by the boys themselves, and she afterwards added a third prize in memory of Mr. Whiddington, the honoured clerk of the Industrial Schools Department, to which his early death was a serious loss. This prize was awarded to the best boy as chosen by Governor Hartland, and it so happened that once all three prizes were won by the same lad. The prize-giving was made a festive occasion for the school. Miss Davenport-Hill was always present, and various friends were invited. She would often give the prizes away herself, making a kindly little speech to the recipients as they mounted the platform amid the cheers of their comrades. On one such occasion she gave signal evidence of her nerve and presence of mind. Her chair had unwittingly been placed too near the edge of the platform, when, to the horror of those present, she suddenly disappeared backwards on to the floor below. Nothing daunted, however, she picked herself up and went calmly on with the proceedings as if nothing unusual had happened. On another occasion, when getting out of the train at Brentwood Station, her imperfect sight caused her to miss the footboard, and she

rolled down on to the rails below the carriage, but she was scrambling up again almost as soon as her companion had realised that she had fallen, and despite her more than sixty years she at once walked off to her work at the school scarcely waiting to have the dust and earth brushed from her dress. When the prize-giving was over, all repaired to the play-ground to witness the sports and drill, and to listen to the capital school band, headed by the silken banner she had given them, whereon kind friends had embroidered the motto, "Right Onward". The band was allowed to play from time to time at entertainments in the neighbourhood, the money thus earned going to provide excursions and treats for the whole school. The young musicians, in common with many of their school-fellows, on leaving Brentwood often elected to enter the army. They carried with them an affectionate remembrance of their school and their benefactress, as their letters home, and presents to herself and to the school officers, abundantly testify. But they also took with them a character for excellent conduct, so that the colonel of a line regiment, whom Rosamond

met at Cairo, was able to assure her that he would gladly take any number of Brentwood boys on account of their good behaviour and trustworthiness.

It was not school discipline alone that had obtained such a result. "Rose was what may be called a *born mother*," writes one of her cousins, "that is to say she loved and understood children as the majority of women never do until they have children of their own. To all of us mothers among the cousinhood this was a great pleasure. She never tired of our outpourings about our little ones, and their enjoyment of her presence showed how well she understood the wonderful ways of childhood."

At Brentwood she was looked upon as the *friend and mother* of the boys. As to the officers, Governor Hartland says that she inspired the whole staff *with a feeling of rectitude*. She continued to be chairman of the Brentwood Sub-Committee during the whole term of her service on the Board. Indeed in 1886, when the Moderate Party had just been placed in power, remarkable testimony was offered to the quality of her work at Brentwood, it being

resolved, on the motion of the Rev. J. J. Coxhead, seconded by the Rev. T. F. Porter—both members of that party—that Miss Davenport-Hill be the permanent chairman of the sub-committee, instead of being, as heretofore, annually re-elected, and she held the post until Easter, 1897.

It was that same Easter Sunday that an officer from Brentwood arrived in Hampstead bringing the terrible news of an outbreak of scarlet fever in the school. Rose at once grappled with the situation in her own thorough and effectual manner. She wrote them a long letter of advice the same day, and sent word of what had happened down to the secretary at the Metropolitan Asylums Offices. The morrow being Bank holiday made matters more difficult, but she managed to telegraph to the hospital for beds, directing that an ambulance should be sent to the school at once, while she herself started for Brentwood by the earliest possible train on Easter Monday morning. Here she arrived in time to see the patients put into the ambulance and then consulted with the governor as to further arrangements that

might be desirable. Fearing lest she should carry infection among the holiday crowds, she refused to enter the building, even to partake of refreshment, and travelled straight back to Hampstead, old lady that she was, through all the congested traffic of the season. Nor would she take her customary Easter vacation that year, but stood by in town in case her services might be required to deal with fresh emergencies. But, thanks doubtless to her prompt and effective action, only a few scattered cases remained to be dealt with.

Just before she retired from the Board there arose a scandal concerning a neighbouring poor-law school, which by confusion of their names threw its shadow over that belonging to the London School Board, and an outbreak of typhoid fever occurring at the same time, it became advisable to move the Industrial School elsewhere. It was sent to Margate, and the Board took this occasion to re-name it, in her honour, the Davenport-Hill Home for Boys. Here they remained for three years, becoming popular in the neighbourhood on account of their good conduct and pleasant manners. One of

them also received the medal of the Humane Society for having rescued a child from drowning in the sea.

At a meeting of the Brentwood Committee held in February, 1898, shortly after she had retired from the Board, it was resolved :—

"That the committee desire to express their indebtedness to Miss Davenport-Hill for the zeal and devotion with which she has watched over the interests of the school during the continuous period of eighteen years, eleven of which she has acted as chairman of the sub-committee, and not only as regards the great amount of her time given ungrudgingly to the work, and the pains displayed in the training and welfare of the boys whilst in the school, but also in continuing to promote their best interests in life after they have left the institution".

And in his annual report the same year the inspector thus referred to her :—

"The school during the year has suffered a severe loss in the retirement from the Board of Miss R. Davenport-Hill, who has so long and so tactfully and with such eminent success taken

the leading part in its management. It is not too much to say that her devotion to the school generally, and in particular her consistent support of a staff in which she had confidence, and her keen personal interest in every boy in the place, gave the institution mainly the good features which mark the best schools established under voluntary auspices."

CHAPTER V.

THE CITY SCHOOLS.

THE development of the cookery centres and the regeneration of the Brentwood Industrial School, though in themselves sufficiently arduous undertakings, did not prevent Miss Davenport-Hill from feeling a keen interest in the City Board schools that were under her immediate care. As chairman of the managers at Greystoke Place, Fetter Lane, she was a constant visitor to that school, where she spent many a morning laboriously checking returns of attendance. Recollecting the arrangements at St. James's Back Ragged School, she was able to introduce improvements, both as regards comfort and efficiency. A mattress was provided for the floor of the baby room, so that the tiny children, some of whom could barely walk, were able to rest during the morning, and she gave every encouragement to those teachers who

were the kindest and brightest in manner. The kindergarten teachers always received her warm sympathy and support, and she earnestly promoted that pleasant system of instruction among all the infant schools under the Board. The new phonetic manner of learning to read was at once given a fair trial at Fetter Lane; and in the upper schools a penny savings bank was started by the late Miss Lister of Hampstead. Annual treats and Christmas parties for the children were arranged by Mrs. Scott and other friends, Miss Hill making a point of being there herself to welcome the young guests with her kind presence; and on one occasion Mrs. Kendal spared an afternoon from her busy life to read to the elder ones from *As You Like It*. In the summer time parties of children were sent to country homes by the kind invitation of Lady Brabazon. Great was the washing and excitement in preparation for this delightful outing, and Miss Davenport-Hill was deeply gratified by the self-devotion of the staff, who spared no pains to ensure that every child should be despatched clean and decently dressed. The expenses of the undertaking were all defrayed

by Lady Brabazon, by whose generosity £300 had been placed at the disposal of the Board at a time when there had been an outcry about starving children. A portion of this sum had been given to Miss R. Davenport-Hill for distribution in the City, but having been unable to find enough cases of want, she proposed to return the balance. It was then at Lady Brabazon's suggestion converted into a holiday fund, and she herself superintended the details of board and lodging, Lord Brabazon very kindly assisting, even to the extent of accompanying a return party to London, although rumour has it that he was greatly relieved when the teachers appeared to meet and take charge of the party.

But the Fetter Lane School was above all noteworthy for having been the first under the London Board to give instruction in the common duties of a working-man's life. As long ago as the early seventies, when the Board came into existence, the remarkably able men who then came forward to shape their country's elementary education had placed social economy on the list of the few essential and therefore compulsory subjects; but succeed-

ing Boards, failing probably to realise the importance or the possibility of forming character or teaching virtue, had, beyond a very small amount of Bible reading, attendance at which was optional, turned their attention more to the introduction of a number of quasi-literary and scientific subjects, after the pattern of the education prevailing still in many secondary and upper-class schools, than to any instruction in right and wrong conduct. On a motion by Mrs. Fenwick Miller, however, social economy was rescued from oblivion and placed upon the list of specific subjects, which means to say that a head-master might, with the approval of his divisional member and managers, add it to the other subjects that he was obliged to teach. Under these conditions it is naturally only the more enlightened among managers and teachers who insist upon taking advantage of the opportunity which allows them to give the children in their care valuable instruction for their guidance in life, and also to shape their aspirations in the right direction, so that they may really try to become the kind of men and women that they know they ought to be.

Miss Davenport-Hill had already witnessed the efficacy of such instruction in practical duty at the schools founded by William Ellis, and at one or two other middle-class schools, and recalling the excellent lesson on this subject that she had heard and admired in the Irish prison school at Mountjoy, she at once realised how very useful such teaching should be. Assisted by the intelligent body of managers whom she had gathered round her, social economy was soon introduced into the school at Greystoke Place. The thoughts of the children were directed to the work awaiting them when they left school, and they were led to understand how much of their welfare would depend upon their own exertions and acquirements. They were taught how to increase the value of their work and the amount of their wages, how to guide their conduct in industrial life so as to secure at least a reasonable maintenance for themselves and their families, and how to guard what they had gained. When they had become fully convinced of the power of the primary qualities of industry and skill in their work, of economy with their earnings, and of honesty in both, they

were further led to consider what would be their duty to those in need of help, and especially to their own children, to provide properly for whom would necessitate the master qualities of judgment and foresight. Such teaching to be effective must be accompanied by exhaustive and perpetual questioning in that Socratic method that William Ellis had applied to moral teaching with so much success. When certain habits and qualities are found to be essential to our welfare, the question naturally arises as to how they can be acquired, when we can begin to acquire them, and what can be done at once in order to assist ourselves to move in the direction we wish to go. In short such teaching to be of real value must rouse thought and form ideals on the subject of right and wrong conduct, and must never be allowed to degenerate into abstract assertion.

At Bowling Green Lane School the headmaster, Mr. Richardson, had on his own initiative taken up this teaching, using William Ellis's *Progressive Lessons in Social Science* (Smith Elder & Co.) as his guide. During his boyhood among the miners in Wales he had keenly

felt the need of such knowledge, and witnessed the disaster that overtook those who ignored its principles; he determined therefore that no school of his own should be guilty of neglecting a branch of instruction that might make all the difference to his pupils, between a life spent in comfortable circumstances, or one of disappointed struggle, bitter feelings, and despair.

Miss Davenport-Hill visited his school with one of her managers, to see what was being done there, and to give her sympathy and support if it were deserved; for the Government inspector had reported adversely on the subject of social economy, not realising the supreme need of some instruction of this nature, but apparently confounding it with the dead and almost useless methods of the old political economy. Such misapprehension on the part of scholastic inspectors, drawn for the most part from the older universities, with their interest circling naturally round academic subjects rather than practical ones, did much to check the introduction of this simple common-sense system of conduct teaching and training, the need of which

is so cruelly patent to those who are conversant with the workaday world.

One or two of the more open-minded inspectors spoke in no uncertain terms, it is true, of the advantages of this teaching, and one or two Board members were ready to back up Miss Hill in her advocacy, Mark Wilks even declaring that he could not think what had possessed the School Board that they had not made it an essential subject from the outset. But no one on the Board did so much as Miss Davenport-Hill to see that it was really introduced into the schools.

Meetings of teachers were held at Greystoke Place, Fetter Lane, after school hours to study the subject, and to consider how best to teach it and introduce it into other schools; and Miss Davenport-Hill invited managers of schools and others interested in education to meet weekly at her house, to hear lectures and join in discussions conducted with the same object. In later years the teaching of secular morality was most unfortunately set aside in favour of an attempt to establish purely doctrinal instruction in the tenets of the Church of England. While the

more broad-minded among the clergy have ever been ready to welcome a course of instruction calculated to teach how the best aspirations of true religion may be applied to conduct in daily life, the lesser spirits, jealous lest the practical should supplant the theoretical, have fought hard to strangle it. But a woman of Rosamond Hill's insight was not to be deluded into mistaking a shadow for a reality, and her vote on this important question was steadily given to the party of progress.

In 1884 another City Board school was opened in Gravel Lane, and a private school in Houndsditch was taken over by the Board; but the latter had to be closed by order of the Commissioner of Sewers, necessitating the sudden removal one morning of 200 girls and infants. Miss Hill accompanied them through the streets on their migration to Gravel Lane, and helped to find room for them in the new school that was subsequently enlarged. Here she was as constant in her attendance, and as helpful a friend to children and teachers, as she was at Greystoke Place.

The children were mostly of Jewish or

foreign birth, many of them unable at first to speak English. Their appreciation of the school, and their orderly conduct and general intelligence, greatly interested her, and she gave much time and trouble to the consideration of their special treatment.

These were perhaps the busiest years of Miss Davenport-Hill's whole life. She was in the habit of rising at 6 A.M. to attend to her correspondence before breakfast, and to read through the papers and pamphlets bearing on the business of the day. Ensconced in her study which was warmed by a gas stove, she would be at work before the rest of the household were astir. In these morning hours she also wrote articles for the leading magazines, such as that on cookery teaching already referred to. Besides all this, she attended to a mass of school work, of which she examined and checked every detail.

All questions that came before her were judged on their own merits, never on party lines, so that she became almost as much respected by her opponents as she was by her friends. When she first stood for the Board

she told her constituents that she would give no pledges, but that her sympathies were with the ratepayers.

A few years of close attention to its practical work materially modified her views, and led her to the conviction that neither the interests of the ratepayers, nor those of the Board's vast body of teachers, should for a moment stand in the way of duty to the children. In all cases of school management the good of the children became her paramount consideration. In their interests it became sometimes necessary to censure, or even summarily dismiss, an employé. This is always an unpleasant, not to say an invidious, task, and there were members of the School Board, as on most other elected bodies, who shrank from the painful undertaking. But when she felt it to be her duty Miss Davenport-Hill never flinched. A teacher, for instance, was once found guilty of fraudulent entries of attendance, more children being admitted, in fact, than appeared on the books, a proceeding which was of pecuniary advantage to herself. This she managed by keeping the extra pupils at play in the playground till the time had

passed for entering their names on the books. The Board were about to condone this act of dishonesty when Miss Davenport-Hill arose to make indignant protest. She told them they were far too lenient to teachers convicted of cheating. What influence, she asked, could such a one have on the children who were invited to connive at the fraud? Yet an act like this was to be passed over as if it did not signify! Should a teacher present himself in the very least degree the worse for drink, all were shocked, but grave as the latter offence no doubt was, she herself considered it the lighter of the two, the one being for the most part unintentional, while the other was a deliberate act of wrong-doing, with all its pernicious influence on the children's conduct throughout their lives.

One of her colleagues retorted that she was "hard as the nether millstone"; but in spite of this the justice of her argument carried the day. When once delinquents had been punished however, none were more eager than she to give them a chance to redeem their character. If she believed them worthy of it she never rested till their names were placed on the supply list,

from which temporary vacancies were filled; so that after years of probation they might once more regain their former standing. In all cases of misfortune, whether from illness or otherwise, her strong sympathy never failed. Sufferers in health have been privately given the means of taking a necessary holiday; young girl-teachers from the country have been waylaid as they left the Board, and given the money that might keep them during the few weeks that must elapse before entering on their duties. Yet through all her feeling for the individual, she remained true to the conviction that the first consideration of the Board should be to secure a good education for the children, understanding by "good" not a mere smattering of high-sounding academic subjects, but such teaching and training as might really make them well-principled, self-supporting and thoroughly desirable members of society.

CHAPTER VI.

IN A MINORITY.

MISS DAVENPORT-HILL had now been six years on the London School Board. The Progressive party had been in power the whole of this time, and hoped that for some years at least their majority would continue. But a rude awakening was in store for them. In the autumn of 1885, shortly before the next election was due, there suddenly appeared on railway book-stalls and elsewhere a small pamphlet published by Mr. Lobb, a member of the Board, violently attacking that body and charging them with extravagance, jobbery, gross mismanagement and waste of public money. The paper attracted much notice, and was eagerly read and believed in by a public who had been becoming more and more uneasy over the growing school rate, and had no means of judging the truth of the statements the pamphlet contained. At the

outset, while the Board were learning their work, Miss Davenport-Hill did not deny that they might have wasted some money, but she absolutely repudiated all assumption of private peculation; indeed with the exception of one trifling instance, there had never even been a question of it. The clerks in their employ had also been singularly free from the least suspicion of dishonesty; doubt on this point having only once arisen, when a bottle of coins discovered in digging the foundations of a new school building had been sent to the Board Office—and could never afterwards be traced.

But the accusations of Mr. Lobb did their work. At the elections in November many of the old members, including Mr. Lyulph Stanley, the leader of the Progressive Party, lost their seats, to be replaced by a new set, pledged above all things to exercise stricter supervision and economy. Nevertheless Miss Davenport-Hill was again returned, being indeed second on the poll.

The School Board election of 1885 was the first of any kind to follow the passing of the Corrupt Practices Act, and considerable doubt

existed as to what that Act permitted, and what had now become illegal. Private friends did all they could to assist, among whom she now numbered the distinguished artist Clara Montalba. A note from this lady, dated 28th October, 1885, says: "Three other City friends have verbally promised you their vote. Others have answered my letters to them saying that they will vote for you should they be in town—in no case had I a refusal."

Sir John Lubbock was again chairman of her committee, which had largely increased by this time and included many of the best-known names in the City. A room at the Guildhall Tavern was as usual engaged for them, but on the second day of its occupation it came to Rosamond's knowledge that the recent Act had made such occupation illegal. She immediately had all papers packed up, and although she had already done a long day's work, she started off at once to seek and secure other accommodation. In this she was successful, and early next morning everything was removed into the new rooms. The position at the Guildhall Tavern being pronounced illegal, she was informed that

it would not now be necessary to pay for the rooms that had been engaged there, but she put from her with scorn the suggestion that she should thus take advantage of her mistake. Speaking of her difficulties to a colleague on the voting day, he told her it would be as well to make an affidavit stating that she took the Tavern rooms in ignorance, and that she moved as soon as she found out her mistake —which she accordingly did, before the Court of Queen's Bench.

"They whitewashed my proceedings," laughed she, "at a cost of twenty guineas!"

Other members fared even worse.

In addition to this disturbance she was startled in the middle of the election by a telegram from her private secretary to the effect that she would lose her seat if she did not immediately join forces with a candidate on the other side, but she was not to be shaken, and stoutly declared that she would rather lose it than appear to approve of opinions at variance with her own.

Altogether it was a very exciting election, and it resulted in the return of the Clerical or Moderate party by a large majority. The

Rev. Mr. Diggle was elected chairman of the Board; he also took the place of Mark Wilks as chairman of the School Management Committee, thus obtaining practical command of the whole executive.

And now began uphill work for the Progressive minority, marked by many an acrimonious discussion. Some of the lady members did not bear adversity well, and lost popularity by their sharp retorts and resentment under provocation; but Miss Davenport-Hill looked upon it only as the fortune of war.

"I didn't mind," said she cheerily; "they gave me a prod now and again, but they didn't hurt me."

Under the new régime she was allowed to remain chairman of the Cookery Committee, Mr. Diggle politely averring that it could not be in better hands. Dr. Gladstone kept his post as chairman of the "Books and Apparatus" and Mr. Spicer of the Industrial Schools Committee, an arrangement which the clerk described as "the survival of the fittest". All their other colleagues were ousted, the chair of the Stores Committee being taken by the now notorious Mr. Lobb.

This Board had come in pledged above all things to retrenchment, and it was so far successful at first that it managed to reduce the rate by a halfpenny. This was brought about mainly by refusing to initiate any new schools. Those already begun were finished, but no new ones were started, while the child population was of course increasing year by year. On the other hand, they did a very useful thing by appointing a committee, on the motion of Mr. Bousfield, to inquire into and improve the method of education. Miss Davenport-Hill sat on this committee, which accomplished much quiet work. They examined and adopted Rick's system of hand and eye training, and discussed the Slöyd system, which attempts the same by means of working in wood. The lady-instructor in Swedish drill, who was about to return to her own country, persuaded the Committee to send two of their teachers to Sweden to learn the Slöyd training. On their return Miss R. Davenport-Hill invited them to explain their studies at a drawing-room meeting, and herself became so interested that the following autumn she visited Herr Abrahamson, its originator, at Naas, and

went over the school that he had founded there on his own estate. She became a warm advocate of this training, and in an article published in the *Contemporary Review* for May, 1888, she gives an account of it, and of what she saw at Naas. She also details the difficulties they experienced in inducing the authorities to sanction its introduction into England.

"The result has proved—what has previously been the case—that the Board must act as pioneer to the Education Department. The cost we have incurred was, in the first instance, surcharged by the auditor, and though, on our own petition, it has since been allowed, it is on condition that we spend no more money on manual training. Consequently, the expense must be defrayed from our private purses, or our experiment must be abandoned."

Manual training was eventually given a trial at Medburn Street School under one of the teachers who had studied in Sweden, and it proved so successful that it has since been developed into manual training classes held at special centres, where boys from different schools can attend, and acquire that practical instruction

of which the girls get the equivalent in needlework, cookery and laundrywork.

"It is a common remark," Miss R. Davenport-Hill says in the same article on technical education, "that while much of the instruction provided in our Board schools is not adapted to prepare our pupils for their future career, we omit to teach those very subjects essential to the formation of capable men and women. But, then, have we arrived at an agreement upon what are essential subjects? . . .

"What do our critics say to our teaching our pupils to observe and admire the beauties of nature? The power thus acquired will not only be a source of extreme enjoyment, but, by filling the mind with what is pure and elevating, will exclude what is bad and degrading. The human mind must have food, and if it cannot obtain that which is wholesome, will perforce feed on that which is deleterious. Further, does not a knowledge of the laws which govern the social well-being of the community show us the suffering we bring, no less on others than on ourselves, by their infringement—infringement as frequently the consequence of ignorance as of

wilful disobedience? To endeavour, therefore, to remove this ignorance, and to promote obedience to these laws—laws, we must remember, which are beyond our power to abrogate or even alter in the slightest degree—surely should be the aim of all sound education. 'The education of the people,' says the late William Ellis, 'is not to be confounded with the mere teaching of reading, writing and arithmetic, nor what goes by the name of history and geography. It means the teaching of the conditions of well-being and the training to an observance of those conditions.' It may be here noted that a beginning has been made in a few of our Board schools in the teaching of the truths which underlie social well-being."

"Shall we therefore" she asks, "lose the ship for the sake of a ha'p'orth of tar? The public must decide. It should, however, bear this fact in mind, that the cost incurred in education is spent quite as much for the benefit of those who pay it as for that of the persons educated—ignorance being most costly to the community as the chief source of poverty and crime. Is it not wiser, then, if we consider the subject on

no higher ground than as a pecuniary question, to spend money in making good citizens rather than in repressing bad ones?"

Such were the principles she worked upon, but the attention of the Board in 1886 was turned to quite other matters, such as the collection of the school fee, which had been from the first a source of perennial trouble. The nation had not yet realised that education, if compulsory, must be free. The first measure introduced by the new chairman was to order children who had not paid their fee "to be excluded from school," which meant in practice that any little one coming on Monday morning without the prescribed amount, varying in different localities from one penny to sixpence, was to be sent home again at once, and its parents summoned for not sending it to school. To this Miss Davenport-Hill raised the very practical objection that "sometimes it rains, and sometimes it snows; and often, moreover, the parents leaving home in the morning to go to their work lock the door behind them—what then," she asked, "was to become of the children ejected from school?"

So the proposal was modified into sending the

children back some time during the morning, which really resulted in their retention during morning school. Mr. Lobb protested vigorously against this arrangement, and remitted the fees wholesale in the schools in his division. Expedients of this nature led up to the subsequent abolition of the school fee.

The next great measure dealt with by the Board was a superannuation scheme, by means of which teachers on reaching a fixed age were to become entitled to pensions, a deduction being made meanwhile from the salaries of all to produce the necessary fund. Miss Davenport-Hill was quick to perceive the injustice to women teachers which such a measure would involve, and she opposed it on that ground. She pointed out that women are liable to leave the service of the Board earlier than men, on account both of failing health and of marriage, and that in either contingency, if this measure were passed, they would lose the whole of their enforced contributions to the pension fund. In deference to these objections a clause was inserted to the effect that female teachers might be awarded something if they left on account of ill-health,

but not otherwise, for, it was argued, when they left to be married, which was frequently the case, they would not require a pension, their position having been on the contrary improved.

"That's as may be!" retorted Miss Hill, amid the laughter of friend and foe.

The foregoing very partial protection was all she was able to procure for her sex, a large proportion of whom stood to lose the whole of their contributions.

All teachers were to pay annually 2½ per cent. on their salaries to the pension fund from the time they entered the service of the Board, their pension itself to be calculated on their salary at the time of superannuation, any death or removal from service prior to superannuation to entail (with the exception affecting female teachers already mentioned) the entire sacrifice of their contributions. Teachers were obliged to deposit this money annually with the Board during five years, until an Act of Parliament could be obtained to legalise these proceedings. At the end of the allotted time, no Act being forthcoming, the greater number of teachers withdrew their money. Subsequently in 1895

the whole scheme was found to be financially unsound, an actuary was called in to report, and the Board suffered the humiliation of finding they were unable to disburse more than one-eighth of what they had formerly promised. Deeply did Miss Davenport-Hill regret the absence of Mr. Lyulph Stanley from the Board while the pension scheme was under discussion; for had he been there she knew the measure would have been more ably and thoroughly criticised, and a great blunder averted.

These three years were on the whole a trying time for the Progressive party. Feelings ran high, and the opposition were obliged to be ever on the alert.

The usual short autumn vacation Miss Hill spent sometimes in Switzerland with her sister, and sometimes in Scotland, or with friends in the hill country of Southern France. Simple and genuine in all her tastes, Rose entered thoroughly into the fun of the moment, and was as great a favourite with young as old, assisting at the lavender harvest or vintage, and making merry over her mistakes at the whist table in the evening, ever ready to climb

a hill with the girls, or to join in an antiquarian expedition with the elders. In Scotland no weather upset her temper, in Switzerland no inconvenience could provoke discontent.

After her holiday she returned to her work with fresh vigour, and when she fought the election of 1888 she was again returned, but this time at the head of the poll. Congratulations poured in upon her from far and near, among them being one from Sir Walter Crofton, whose work in the Irish prisons she had so much admired in former days. As a testimony of respect Lord Rothschild also sent her a contribution towards her election expenses—the whole cost of the three previous ones she had defrayed entirely herself, involving an expenditure, with attendant charities, that she estimated at between £1,400 and £1,500.

During the first election, when some personal canvassing had been done, her friends were surprised to find how widespread the belief was among the smaller tradespeople that a pecuniary benefit would accrue to the member elected. One potato salesman, in particular, scornfully refused to believe that any one would take so

much trouble for nothing. In all subsequent elections, however, it was Miss R. Davenport-Hill's practice to canvass the City by post, an expensive process despite the assistance of many friends who gladly volunteered their services in folding and directing the many thousands of circulars. At the same time her own vigour and strength of constitution were never more apparent than during this election, when at the age of sixty-two she was able to tire down any one of her young lady workers. Leaving home as early as 8 A.M. with nothing more than a piece of cake by way of luncheon, she has been known to attend one or two meetings in order to speak to her constituents, go off between whiles to some official duty connected with the Board, none of which she neglected even at such a busy time, then visit a distant knot of workers where she would superintend the multiplicity of election details, taking no further refreshment or rest until she reached home for dinner at 9 P.M. Even then the day's work was not over, for a voluminous correspondence would be awaiting her, all of which she attended to with the help of her sister before retiring for

the night—to rise quite ready for similar exertions the following morning. No weather, however bad, deterred her from her self-appointed duties. Through fog and snow, on bleak winter mornings, she would start early and alone for her long day's work, which might include a journey to Brentwood, or an excursion in an open boat to the training ship lying off Gravesend.

And in spite of it all she would find time to visit a sick neighbour or friend, going out before breakfast perhaps on these errands of mercy. She was in fact still at the very zenith of her power and activity.

The election of 1888 resulted in a smaller majority for Mr. Diggle, and Dr. Gladstone of the Progressives was elected vice-chairman. Miss Hill declared it to be the pleasantest Board she ever sat on.

The following autumn, with characteristic enterprise, she started off quite alone to spend the vacation in America. An incident that occurred at the New York Customs is perhaps worth mentioning, as showing the extent to which she would sacrifice comfort for conscience.

On being asked if she had any new clothing to declare she felt it incumbent on her to mention a couple of baby's frocks that she was taking to a cousin in Toronto. The woman whose duty it was to examine the effects of lady passengers became much annoyed by Miss Hill's prolonged inability to find them.

"You must know where they are," she exclaimed angrily, "since you put them in yourself."

"There you are mistaken," replied she, with imperturbable good humour. "I did not pack them, my maid did, and I have no idea in which trunk they are."

So at last, it being nearly ten o'clock at night, the appraiser was appealed to, who settled the matter very promptly by seizing a piece of chalk and passing all the luggage without more ado. When recounting the incident to her friends she made merry over her troubles, adding with a regretful shake of the head: "That woman made my things in a great mess!"

While in America she visited numerous schools both in the United States and Canada. She also had a delightful trip up the Hudson to the

model farm of Mr. and Mrs. Lawson Valentine at Houghton, where she was received with the warmest hospitality.

Here all manner of agricultural experiments are carried out both with cattle and crops. Dr. Lymon Abbott writes: "I have called it a farm; but it is rather a privately endowed agricultural experiment station, established by its owner, Mr. Lawson Valentine, for promoting the agricultural interests of the United States".

But much as Rosamond loved country pursuits, her work lay in the towns. It was in New York that she found the State schools provided with pianos that the children might do musical exercises when the wet weather kept them indoors. Struck with the advantage of this provision, she resolved to introduce it if possible into the London schools. Some of them indeed already possessed a piano or harmonium, the gift of friends interested in the work, and the cost of supplying pianos to the schools which had none would not have exceeded £23 each. When the motion was brought forward for the supply of pianos to infant schools Miss Davenport-Hill voted in favour of it; but the public took great

umbrage at the proposal. They were led to believe that the Progressive party intended to teach children *to play on the piano*, and they naturally resented such an unreasonable expense. Ten years later pianos were being supplied, not only to infant schools, but also to boys' and girls' schools, and no one made any objection to the outlay. The wrong impression, however, in the public mind defeated the Progressives at the election of 1891, when the Moderates obtained a majority of 33. Miss Davenport-Hill retained her seat for the City, but her party was badly hit.

Such a record as hers of unremitting work and sensible moderation of view was not to be lightly set aside. It was known that for thirteen years she had never missed one of the weekly Board meetings, and that her knowledge of detail was invaluable on committees. Therefore when the cookery, laundry, and needlework departments were thrown into one and called domestic subjects, it was she who was invited to take the chair, although there must have been many of Mr. Diggle's own party who hoped for such a post. Always ready to render praise

where it was due, she on her part said openly at the Board that when Mr. Diggle gave away the prizes at Brentwood she had never heard it better done.

The question whether they should provide meals for those children who came hungry to school was brought rather into prominence by this Board. It had already been mooted from time to time, and discussed with great difference of opinion. Miss Davenport-Hill opposed the movement, maintaining that it was the province of the School Board to educate children, but not to feed or clothe them.

Where this had not been sufficiently done by the parents she thought that recourse should be had to private effort or the Poor Law. As a matter of fact, in charity of this description experience teaches us that it is impossible not to increase the evil which we attempt to alleviate. Do we provide breakfasts for those children who have none, in a few days' time the whole school will arrive unbreakfasted. After several abortive attempts, however, an association was formed with an income of £1,000 a year, of which Mr. Diggle was chairman, for the purpose

of providing meals for the children. But the work is difficult to supervise and the result was not satisfactory. On the other hand genuine distress was often privately relieved both by managers and teachers, a task in which the cookery centres were able to assist.

Sir James Peek now made the munificent offer of another £1,000 a year to provide boots for the school children who had none, but not enough children in need of them could ever be found. During the twenty years that the School Board had been at work there had in fact been a gradual but steady improvement in the tone and appearance of the children, as well as in the school buildings, the teachers, and the method of teaching.

The next few years, notably 1893-94, were lamentably wasted in what was called religious discussion, during which the Clerical party attempted to thrust matters of doctrine down unwilling throats that spat them back again.

It had been agreed, after thorough consideration by the first Board, to teach the elements of religion and morality, and it had hitherto been the practice to have the Bible read in all

their schools and examinations held in Scripture but not in doctrine; and a few isolated attempts had also been made to give instruction in secular morality. In the unseemly struggle which now took place morality was overlooked, while the contention raged round the various forms of Christian doctrine.

In an unhappy moment Mr. Stanley had suggested that to the phrase "elements of religion and morality" the word *Christian* should be added. This was at once adopted. Then followed a long circular, drawn up by one of the clergymen present, to explain what they meant by Christian. It was in the main, as Miss Davenport-Hill declared, "a mass of clerical verbiage with the sting in the last paragraph".

She voted against it, having long been of opinion that the mystery contained in the doctrine of the Trinity was quite unfit to be taught to young children. It was carried, however, by a large majority, and was followed by a second circular drawn up by Mr. Athelstan Riley. The object of this one was to force the teachers to accept the doctrine set forth in the first. But 3,000 of them refused to comply,

offering to resign their positions rather than lose their liberty of conscience.

In this dilemma Mr. Riley's circular was allowed to drop, and became virtually a dead letter. Invariably courteous and pleasant as this gentleman was in all his personal relations with Miss Davenport-Hill, it pained her to have to oppose him so constantly and so absolutely.

But although the tide of religious intolerance was thus partly dammed back, it swept right over the school at Brentwood. Twelve of the boys had been in the habit of singing in the choir of a neighbouring Congregational Chapel; but they were now forbidden to do so. A local gentleman who had been very kind to the boys, often giving them magic lantern displays and other treats, which he seasoned with a little moral discourse, was now forbidden to speak to them, because, forsooth, he was a Nonconformist. The boys, moreover, were in future to be sorted out on Sundays to the different denominations that they were said to belong to when they were committed to the industrial school—there were two Wesleyans, one Baptist, and so forth —and taken to their respective chapels, an

arrangement which entailed a serious amount of extra work on the staff on Sundays; in addition to which the vicar was to come as often as three times a week to instruct his own special flock. It was a curious fact, as the governor of the school remarked, that from this time forward all the new boys arrived with their warrants defining them as members of the Church of England. Dissenters seemed to have disappeared from the land.

The painful effect of all this folly and injustice was of course a great distress to Miss Davenport-Hill. She fought against it as best she could, but was not able to undo the mischief. Her strength was no longer what it had been, and she was further troubled with failing eyesight, necessitating an operation in the autumn of 1893. While thus partially incapacitated for several weeks she was, however, by no means idle. With the help of her secretary she prepared a paper on "Elementary Education in England," written at the request of the Sub-Committee on Women's Education at the Chicago Exhibition. It comprised an exhaustive review of English elementary education through-

out the nineteenth century, giving an especially detailed account of the methods and growth of the London School Board. The Kindergarten classes, the hand and eye training, the manual work done under the Board, were all carefully described, and a collection of selected samples was prepared and despatched to Chicago in illustration of these subjects. The paper concludes with the following summary, in which the author not only describes what had been done, but also clearly indicates one of the most imperative educational needs of the present day :—

"There are thus four grades of schools. The permanent industrial for those whose bad habits or home surroundings make it imperative to remove them from the influence of their parents or guardians; the day industrial for those whose circumstances are not so vicious as to require permanent separation; the truant for those who possess decent homes, but will not attend school; and for the rest, happily the vast majority, elementary schools which afford an education excellent in many respects, though capable of substantial improvement. Beyond the three Rs, and advanced and special subjects, the study of

political and social economy (on the lines laid down by William Ellis) and cognate topics bearing on good citizenship—the most important of all lessons a child can learn—has only as yet been touched upon.

"To accomplish these ends may all to whom the education of the people is entrusted possess the knowledge, the experience, and the devotion to duty essential to command success."

CHAPTER VII.

THE LAST ELECTION. OXFORD.

At the close of 1894, greatly on account of her failing sight, Miss Davenport-Hill determined to retire from the London School Board, but she was prevailed upon by her friends and constituents to remain yet another three years. She little thought what honour was in store for her. A public subscription was started by her faithful supporter, Sir John Lubbock, which amounted to a sum sufficient to defray the whole of the election expenses, and notwithstanding the fact that she was at the time laid up with an attack of bronchitis, and unable to appear or to speak at a single meeting, she was returned in triumph at the head of the poll. Letters and telegrams of congratulation and kind appreciation poured in upon her from all sides; but although her courage and devotion were quite untouched by time, signs were not want-

From a Photograph by Goodfellow,
Taken in 1888.

ing that she was no longer in the heyday of her power.

The following summer an operation for cataract became necessary; and after her recovery her sight was still so defective that had it not been for the constant care of her secretary, Miss Bollaert, who now always accompanied her in her daily work, she probably would not have been able to continue it. As it was, she found it necessary in 1895 to withdraw from the active management of the Gravel Lane School.

Her departure was deeply regretted by the head-mistress, Miss Myers, and the assistant teachers. They presented her with a book, "as a slight token," they said, "of the gratitude and esteem we bear you for your unvarying consideration and kindness to us during the long period we have had the pleasure of being connected with you in your good work". This school, consisting almost entirely of Jewish children, had been a constant object of her solicitude, so that throughout her candidature she had earned the loyal support of the Jews in the City. "Her sympathetic attitude to teachers and pupils," the *Jewish Chronicle* ob-

serves (16th November, 1894), "has always excited the admiration of those who have had the privilege of working with her. Her great powers of organisation, coupled with remarkable business capacity, have rendered her invaluable as an administrator, and many of the great improvements in programme, system, and management, have been originated and introduced by her influence."

London University College now paid her the compliment of asking if they might place her name on their list of life governors, which they were accordingly permitted to do.

Early in 1896, while still suffering from very imperfect sight, she was summoned to give evidence before the Departmental Committee on Reformatory and Industrial Schools, then sitting at the Home Office, and her examination occupies twelve and a half printed official columns.

The opinions thus formulated were afterwards collected in a small paper, entitled *How to Deal with Children Pronounced by the Authorities to be Unfitted for Industrial Training.* Here she refutes the idea that because a child is crip-

pled or sickly it should be refused the benefits of an industrial school, and be sent back to its wretched home to drag on a miserable existence and sink into the criminal class.

"The injustice of neglecting those afflicted with physical infirmities while we strain every nerve to rescue the healthy ones, is revolting to humanity," she writes, going on to explain that "an industrial school should in no wise be looked upon as a place of punishment. . . . No doubt to place children in a school which they cannot leave at their own or their parents' free will, to subject them to rules, make them clean and behave with propriety, seems to the general public a severe punishment to those who have previously had the liberty of the streets. But the industrial school is really a '*moral hospital*' in which the cure of the patient is the one object of the managers. Thus while the discipline and constraint to which they are of necessity subjected, may indeed at their first coming amount almost to pain with children hitherto accustomed to liberty, or rather licence; these must be employed without hesitation as being essential to cure."

"Such should be the underlying principle governing all punishment, whether inflicted on children or adults. . . .

"The London School Board have been able at their Industrial School for Boys at Brentwood to receive sickly and crippled children, and our experience has been that the majority of the sickly become stout and healthy under the favourable circumstances of their home life. The trades taught to the crippled are adapted to their condition, and our governor has found that when sent out into the world the originally sickly and the crippled fight the battle of life as successfully as those who are healthy on admission to school."

Miss Hill was a strong advocate of the plan of placing small numbers of the infirm among the pupils in ordinary schools, instead of gathering them all together in one great establishment.

"I believe," she says, "that sickly and crippled children should be placed sparsely in our ordinary industrial schools where the majority enjoy good health. In a well-ordered school compassion for the afflicted induces the healthy

to afford help to their weaker companions, thus utilising and largely developing the good feeling inherent in us all, with at least as much benefit to the donors as to the receivers of kindliness.

"We have found this arrangement very successful in another department of our work. The deaf and dumb girls receiving instruction in cookery are placed in small numbers in the ordinary classes, and we find that the pupils who have the full use of their faculties give kindly help to their less fortunate companions."

During the year 1896 a novel of Miss Corelli's called *The Mighty Atom* was published, and although that class of literature did not often find its way into Rosamond's house, her notice was directed by a friend to the offensive and utterly untrue statements contained in the dedication, where the supposed absence of religious teaching in Board schools is violently condemned. In the hope that the unmerited aspersion might be removed from future editions, Rose thought it her duty to inform the authoress of her mistake in the following letter, —to which she never received either acknowledgment or reply :—

"HAMPSTEAD.
"*December 28th*, 1896.

"TO MISS MARIE CORELLI,

"MADAM,

"My attention has been called to the dedication of your book *The Mighty Atom*, addressed to 'Self-styled Progressivists,' by whom I presume you mean Progressives, as the Liberal party now are termed. I can only speak for the London School Board of which I have been a member for seventeen years. Permit me to assure you that you have fallen into a grave error when you state that we 'assist the infamous cause of education without religion'.

"On the contrary the scheme we have in force instead of 'denying to the children in Board schools and elsewhere,' teaches them the knowledge and love of God as the true foundation of noble living.

"If you will do me the favour to visit any of the schools during the Scripture lesson, which takes place from 9.10 A.M. to 9.40 A.M. every day excepting Saturday and Sunday, when all the schools are closed, you will be able to judge of the instruction we are giving.

"The schools are open to the public, and you will find no difficulty in obtaining admission to the classes if you will kindly be present before the instruction begins.

"The large circulation given to your book is I fear spreading far and wide what you must excuse me for saying is an erroneous statement, and doubtless like all erroneous statements is liable to cause incalculable mischief.

"I remain,

"Your obedient servant,

"R. DAVENPORT-HILL."

At the close of the summer of 1897 Rosamond was obliged still further to diminish her work. She retired from the council of the Froebel Society, and in November she finally relinquished her seat on the London School Board, amid the publicly expressed regret of both the parties. A motion proposed by Mr. Stanley and seconded by the chairman, Mr. Diggle, in a speech that was destined to be the last he should deliver at the Board, has left a unique record on their minutes of the respect and esteem in which she was held.

The resolutions framed by her opponents, expressing their appreciation of her work at Brentwood, have already been quoted, but there is also a remarkable one in connection with what is called the Rota Sub-Committee of the Industrial Schools.

"From the time of her election as a member for the Board in the year 1879, she has with comparatively very few absences, and these mainly caused by illness, attended the meetings of the Rota. As the committee are aware, it is the practice for the clerk to summon three members of the committee in rotation, taken of course in alphabetical order, but Miss Davenport-Hill from the first has taken a very deep interest in this part of the committee's work, and has not been content with attending only on those occasions when her name was on the Rota for the day, but has made a practice of attending all the meetings of the Rota. During the eighteen years the Rota has met 617 times, and Miss Davenport-Hill has been present at 570 of these meetings, and has remained throughout, even when they have taken place, as they do on alternate weeks, at the close of a long sitting

From a Photograph by Major Berkeley Hill, R.F.A.
Taken at Hillstow in 1900.

of the full committee. She has, in addition, for many years made it her duty to read, before the meeting of the Rota is held, the officers' diaries so as to become familiar with the particulars of the cases which are under inquiry, and also to examine the accounts for the officers' travelling expenses. Miss Hill's labours, therefore, in connection with the Rota have been not only of a special character, but have also imposed upon her a great amount of labour, and occupied a great deal of her time."

Her attendance at the weekly Board meetings was no less remarkable, for in the year 1895-96, when her strength was already on the decline, we find that out of 268 *possible* attendances there are 250 actual ones. (See leaflet, *Women on School Boards*, published by Women's Local Government Society.)

Her retirement from the scene of so much devoted labour was the signal for a perfect ovation of gratitude and appreciation.

From the teachers and assistants at Gravel Lane, from the united cookery teachers, from the needlework superintendent, from Her Majesty's inspectors of schools, perhaps above all from the

officers and boys, past and present, of the Brentwood Industrial School, came warm-hearted letters, illuminated addresses, and handsome gifts, as testimonials of esteem, which were to the last among her most treasured possessions upon earth.

"You are leaving behind a good work done, a record in attendance and an example for any woman that may follow you," writes one of her constituents; while another says in words that may well be echoed by the public at large:—

"As to the money spent, I think we ought to be extremely thankful to people like yourself who will do so much for nothing, and not grumble at it!"

Such was the work of one of the women members of that Board which the Education Act of 1902 has swept away. Substituting as it does the authority of the County Council for that of the School Board, it most unfortunately abolishes the election of women, whose presence and co-operation has been recognised as a necessity by all the principal School Boards of the country.

Miss Davenport-Hill wrote to urge in the

leaflet already quoted what, indeed, her own example had amply demonstrated.

"When we consider," she says, "that about two-thirds of the School Board teachers are women, while more than half the pupils are girls; added to which there are the infant boys, who as much as the girls need a woman's influence in legislating for them, the reasons for the presence of women are strong enough. . . . Education does not mean book-learning alone, but includes the formation of character; thus the friendly intercourse of the woman member with the woman teacher—allowing as it does opportunities for discussion of various matters in connection with the children, which for obvious reasons can be much more free than with a male member—forms another strong reason for women sitting on School Boards."

It is much to be hoped that these and similar considerations will be borne in mind when the necessary modifications are made in the existing very imperfect state of the law.

But little now remains to be told of the life of Rosamond Davenport-Hill. Her sister Florence having also retired from public work, they left

London and settled in a home near Oxford, for which their friend of fifty years' standing—who had shared with them the excitement of the Chartist demonstration—the late Rev. John Earle, Professor of Anglo-Saxon, compiled the descriptive name of "Hillstow".

Rosamond continued to take a keen interest in public affairs, and wrote a long letter to the *Times*, 16th April, 1901, on "Habitual Crime and Its Treatment". She also followed the careers of her Brentwood boys with something more than interest. She wrote frequently to those who were following the flag either in India or South Africa, and sent them comforts and warm things that she had knitted for them; when home on leave they were often invited to spend a few days at Hillstow. One of these "old boys," who arrived from the war too late to see her again in this world, wrote a pathetic letter to her sister, expressing his disappointment and grief.

"Her memory," he said, "will always be dear to me, not only as a friend but as a mother, for such she was to me and to all the boys in the Brentwood Industrial School. I am

sure her goodness will always remain uppermost in the memories of all the old boys of the school and deter many a one from taking the wrong step in life."

But her kindly deeds are far too many to enumerate. The flowers in the garden that she loved were continually cut and sent away to invalids, or to the teachers and children of her London schools, just as she had often sent them large bundles of heather gathered during the autumn vacation. Her quick and tender sympathy remained always ready for those in need of it, and although she had not many years in which to enjoy her leisure, yet she lived long enough to gain the affection of her country neighbours, and the devotion of her household.

In June, 1901, she became aware that a mortal illness was upon her, and she met that knowledge with serenity and resignation. The night after she knew that recovery was impossible and that probably only six months of life remained to her, she calmly occupied her waking thoughts with plans for the assistance of her poorer village neighbours, who were suffering from an epidemic aggravated if not caused by impure

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